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| Why ASCLS?  I have been a member since 1976. I was a student member during my internship as it was required by Sr. Rose, the Education Coordinator at Penrose. When I graduated and started to work for Civil Service, I didn’t think I needed to join. But Rose hounded me and I joined just to get her off my back. Well, I figured as a member I had to contribute so I started as Colo. Springs Society President and worked my up to Nat’l ASCLS President over many years.  Along the way I have made many friends and I have created a “family” of peers who share the same language, thought patterns and ethics. If I were to choose one thing that keeps me active in the Society is the passion and love of my profession and ASCLS. It is through my membership I learned public speaking, team work, and critical thinking. I developed contacts across the country that assisted me in doing my job and improving my performance evaluations. My attendance at National meetings has taken me to places I otherwise would never have gone.  To sum up, ASCLS and some of its members are my third family, next to my children and my Church. They all give so much more to me that I ever imagined. So although I am retired from active employment, I will never “retire” from my families.  Barbara Brown  I have been a member for 45 years. My main goal for joining was to become a member of a professional society to improve my skills as a Laboratorian and to continue my education.  I received much more with my membership. I believe I have become a better person as well as a lab professional.  I do believe if you want to be called a professional you must belong to a professional society. It our responsibility to our patients and providers that we are knowledgeable about our instruments, tests, disease states and be able to be a good team member of the health-care team.  We need to be verbal with our knowledge and be able to express our opinions and thoughts.  ASCLS has given me this opportunity to meet other like-minded professionals which I think is the best feature of ASCLS!  Bill Pierce  Why ASCLS?  I joined ASCLS because I believe deeply in the medical laboratory science profession and I want to give back to a profession that has enriched my life.  ASCLS is that final piece that defines who I am as a laboratory professional and as a person. Through ASCLS, I have made many dear friends across the country and have grown a Family. There are so many opportunities in ASCLS to build on what we do in the workplace not only on a technical level but also in the management and leadership arena. Through ASCLS, I have been able to participate in leadership training on a par with a Dale Carnegie training that would cost hundreds of dollars. We talk about continuing education – yes, ASCLS provides excellent continuing education at a very reasonable cost through on line courses, webinars, and most importantly local, state, regional, and national conferences. But the education that is gained from ASCLS is not only technical in nature, it encompasses all areas that round me as a person. The benefits of belonging to ASLCS are multiple but if I were to state one benefit above all others it would be the opportunity to be a part of a unique family that supports me and understands me; we have the same ethics, the same jargon, and the same goals for our profession.  To be considered a true professional, we must join with our peers in our professional organization, ASCLS, and work together to constantly improve who we are and what we do.  Holly Weinberg |

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