

The History of SAFMLS



SAFMLS has its roots in the Air Force Medical Laboratory Symposia. Col Frank Townsend, who would later become the Consultant to the AF/SG and Director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), set the stage at Gunter AFB in 1958, for what was the next year, to become the First Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium. This two-day administrative roundtable attended by 12 officers would also form the roots of our society. History repeats itself, as even at this meeting, the officers lamented not having enough people, money or space. But this first meeting laid the groundwork for many good things still done today, e.g., career planning for lab officers and mail order pathology and cytology. Col Townsend was the "father of modern medical laboratorians, both scientists and pathologists." As Dr. William Reals (a National Consultant in Pathology) stated in the June 1971 *Digest* and is quoted in Lt Col Buckeridge's "A Lab Officer Story," "I must emphasize the pioneering efforts made by Col Frank M. Townsend.....The well-equipped AF laboratories and well-trained officers and airmen who now man them are available today because of the planning efforts first begun by Col Townsend 20 years ago."

The first USAF Medical Laboratory Symposium was held 17-19 February 1959 at Lackland AFB TX with the USAF Hospital Lackland and the USAF Epidemiological Laboratory as co-hosts. The program consisted of clinical and research papers, a briefing on the USAF laboratory program (the forerunner of our present day break-out sessions), and related matters of operation and training. Local funding prevailed and each AFB was invited to send a pathologist and a laboratory officer. At this premier, Col Townsend provided this future world picture. "At the beginning of the Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) (1949), we had only one or two pathologists, half a dozen or a dozen career minded clinical lab officers. Our mission....takes us into every facet of Air Force activity, into research laboratory, in aircraft, missiles, everything else the whole organization is involved in.....The Air Force operation dictates a combat readiness at all times. So the Air Force operates more hospitals, more dispensaries than any other service." At this time, it is noted, formal lab courses had begun in 1952, prompted by the Korean War. Gunter AFB trained lab officers and technicians. The Clinical Laboratory Officer's Course was 16 weeks; the Laboratory Specialist's Course was 19 weeks and the Laboratory Technician's Course was 25 weeks. Lab Officers then went to a year's Phase II training.

The 15-17 February 1960 meeting was held at USAF Hospital Andrews with the same format to the program. The 7-9 February 1961 meeting returned to San Antonio, even in these early days, the idea took root to hold meetings in the DC area and in San Antonio where the most military members could participate at the least cost to their units. Yes, discussions with founding members ("plank owners") of SAFMLS indicate there were a few different colored uniforms at these AF meetings. This program built on the earlier ones by including familiarization tours of USAF Hospital Lackland, the 3790th

Epidemiological Laboratory, also at Lackland, and the Environmental Health Laboratory at Kelly Air Force Base.

The 7-9 February 1962 meeting was held at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) and included topics from all departments in the clinical laboratory as well as Phase II training discussions, legal aspects of medical laboratory practices, aircraft accident investigation practices, and pathology seminars. A total of 74 participants from as far away as Tachikawa AB, Japan and Wiesbaden Germany attended.

The 5-7 Feb 1963 meeting was hosted by USAF Hospital Keesler; it featured the first Keynote Address by Col Frank M. Townsend of AFIP. This gentleman also served as the Laboratory Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General. This meeting also began the tradition of workshops and "open committee meetings." These were shorter workshops, much like our two hour ones, so common at today's SAFMLS meetings. The scientific topics included medical laboratory motion pictures; this meeting was a true first for many of these practices we now take for granted. A total of 82 participants attended.

On 4-7 Feb 1964, the USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium moved to USAF Hospital Orlando at Orlando AFB FL where the AF Surgeon General, MG Richard L. Bohannon addressed attendees. We have no records of the names or numbers of attendees; but this meeting did feature the first ever Annual Awards Banquet and Awards Presentation, an evening affair at the Officers Club. Scientific papers, movies, and workshops were the order of the day. After a paper on "The Role of the Clinical Laboratory in the Space Age," the attendees toured Patrick AFB and Cape Kennedy. They were briefed on bioastronautics, the AF Missile Test Center and the Atlantic Missile Range. The Cape Kennedy tour featured a briefing on the Gemini capsule.

Scheduling problems first appeared in the Feb 1965 meeting at Lackland. The original paperwork set a 9-11 Feb meeting but the final dates appear to be 2-4 February. Although no official program survives for this year, the program format was likely the same as great success seemed to attend it. According to a pre-meeting flyer, this meeting previewed the first Clinical Laboratory Officer seminar where each participant could present his/her view on admin and technical aspects of the job. Papers and workshops and a pathology slide seminar were also presented. General Winger, apparently the Keynote speaker, began with a review of the 1958 Gunter Symposium and then built on it to say that the meetings had matured into a first class professional meeting as well as a clearing house for information for all lab officers. This conduit provided information from HQ USAF to the working lab officer and vice versa. The exchange of ideas led to an effective system of airman and officer education, accurate workload reporting, better aircraft investigation efforts and much improved histology and cytology practices especially for dispensaries. He also highlighted that Col Domanski (he transferred from the Army to the Air Force at Valley Forge General Hospital in 1949) had been appointed Consultant in Medical Laboratory Sciences to the Surgeon General and later as Assistant Chief, Medical Service Corps, for Clinical

Support Services. This was especially good news as now lab officers felt "one of their own" was up there looking out for them. He also stated that on 2 Dec 1964, the Secretary of the Air Force had approved the USAF SG's proposal for creation of a Biomedical Sciences Corps (BSC). Department of the Air Force General Orders created the BSC on 15 March 1965. At this time there were 13 scientific specialties in the BSC, which included pharmacy, optometry, sanitary and industrial hygiene engineers and staff officers, medical entomologists, clinical laboratory officers, aviation physiologists, health physicists, clinical psychologists and psychiatric social workers. The dietitians, occupational therapists, and physical therapists who had been in the Medical Specialist Corps -- a carry over from the Women's Medical Specialist Corps rounded out the BSC specialties. The laboratorians constituted one of the largest groups (approximately 150). The 835 members so affected changed medical shields (a.k.a. "snookie badge") and this change also created the Associate Chiefs structure for the BSC. Obviously 1965 was a watershed year for the USAF, the BSC and what would soon become SAFMLS, or the Air Force Society of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AFSMLS) as it was first proposed, was already being discussed. The actual creation of the society would wait yet another five years, until the 1970 symposium in Atlanta (the USAF's 12th Annual Meeting) where a proposed constitution would be presented.

USAF Hospital March hosted the 1-3 (Eighth Annual) Feb 1966 meeting; it featured the forerunner of the President's Reception the night before opening ceremonies. The meeting followed the usual format and included an annual banquet. The first industry sponsored workshops appeared at this meeting.

The Ninth Annual (31 Jan to 2 Feb 1967) Symposium returned to Lackland at the newly named Wilford Hall USAF Hospital. Since the previous year's format was so successful, the idea of an opening "Ice Breaker" and a mid-meeting annual banquet were retained. Forty-two participants enjoyed this meeting.

On 16-18 April 1968, the 10th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium, returned to Malcolm Grow USAF Hospital. Eighty-five to ninety personnel attended from Pacific and European bases as well as all over the Continental United States (CONUS). Automation appears to be a hot topic at this meeting as well as the role of the clinical laboratory in combat and inspections, accreditations, laboratory standards and proficiency surveys.

The Eleventh Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium was at the El Tropicana Motel in San Antonio from 29 Sep - 1 Oct 1969 and was the first meeting not held at an Air Force Base. This site would also, in 1979, host a SAFMLS meeting. Topics included: developments in the lab, computer analysis of the AF Cytology Program, BSC Plans and Programs, a Year End Review for BSC Lab Officers, an Intro to Lab Management, panel discussions of various topics, blood component preparation and therapy and a breakout session.

The 1970 12th Annual Symposium was 19-21 Sep at the Atlanta Marriott Motor Hotel. This historic meeting, attended by 97 Pathologists, Clinical Laboratory Officers

and Civilian Consultants in Pathology, also featured the debate, pro and con, and creation of the Society of Air Force Medical Laboratory Scientists. Officers were: President - Col Claude Leeper, USAF, MC; President-Elect - Lt Col Richard Krause, USAF, BSC; Vice-President - Col William Price, USAF, BSC; Secretary - Lt Col Jean Rogers, USAF, BSC; and Treasurer - Capt Robert "DJ" Desjardins, USAF, BSC. Lt Col Jean D. Rogers, USAF, BSC noted "a fact of life, all of us have experienced, as officers of the Armed Forces Society --that the Society, then and now, is composed of one hundred per cent Chiefs--and not one damn Indians." Papers, presentations on automated equipment, and the steering committees on medical lab material, technical methods and personnel and training kept participants busy until the historic election of society officers.

1st SAFMLS - SAFMLS became incorporated, in the State of Maryland, in 1971. The original articles of incorporation, the seal, and most of the documents kept by the first Historians have been lost. The first Constitution is at Attach 1. Objectives are: (1) to promote health and improve patient care; (2) improve quality of laboratory procedures and techniques for diagnosis; (3) establish voluntary standards for performance and (4) stimulate interest in research in medical laboratory sciences. Plank Owners included 127 members (Attach 2) with such well known Society notables as Maj Gerry Boe, Capt Tom Cerha, Lt Tom Cross, Captain "DJ" Desjardins, Col Hal Etter, Capt Larry George, Maj Jim Gunter, Maj Gerry Heckman, Maj Frank Holub, Maj Bob Houston, Capt Rich Krieg (SAFMLS 1985 President), Lt Col Hal Newman, Maj "Nick" Nikolewski (a future SAFMLS President [1974] and future BSC Associate Chief), Lt Col Billy Joe Robertson (a future BSC Associate Chief), Capt Earl Rogers, Lt Col Armand San Diego, Maj Vic Schulz, Lt Gary Wandmacher, Lt Rei Warnken (a future BSC Associate Chief), Capt Bill Westbrook, Lt Jim Whitecavage, Mr. Jerry Widish, Maj Nelson Wilder, and Maj "Bud" Wrenn (a future Journal Editor). Col Claude Leeper, USAF, MC was our first president. The Proceedings, (the Society's Newsletter/Journal) premiered Volume 1, Number 1 on 2 March 1972 and announced the upcoming SAFMLS meeting. This four page document called out the purpose of SAFMLS, its officers and three standing committees (Lab Technical Methods, Med Lab Materials and Lab Personnel and Training), announced promotions and new jobs, recruited members, technical reports, committee reports and heralded the ever popular call for abstracts.

The **2nd annual** SAFMLS meeting was held 16-18 Sep 1972 at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas NV. At this meeting, Col Bill Price (the cigar chewing wonder) took the reins, becoming the first lab officer to do so. Fifty-two members attended. At this business meeting, the official seal of the Society was delayed a year due to many general membership inputs. The idea of a Tri-Service Society also gained root and Col Leeper was appointed by Col Price to chair the committee to explore possibilities for same. Article IV, Section V of the Constitution was amended to read "The Secretariat, comprised of the Executive and Recording Secretaries. The Recording Secretary shall keep minutes of the annual meeting and of all other meetings of the Society. He shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Society, including notification of members of the annual meeting." Maj Mockler made a motion that membership should be

afforded to enlisted personnel and civilian scientists in the grade of GS-7 to GS-9; the motion was tabled after much discussion.

The **3rd Annual** SAFMLS and the 15th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium opened 18 Sep 1973 at the Ramada Inn, Rosslyn at Key Bridge in Washington DC. Room rates were \$23 a single and \$28 double occupancy and a special military rate of \$8 per person per night for those wishing to stay after the meeting. Dues were \$5 for initiation (includes your certificate) and then \$2 a year and the meetings were held at the AF Surgeon General's Office at the Forrestol Building in downtown Washington DC. A newsflash, found in the archives, announces the award of the "CLYDE" (Continued Liaison Yearns Daily Efficiency) Award being presented. The record states this award is shaped in the image of Lt W. Forbusher, the first BSC to successfully overthrow an Officer Effectiveness Report (OER) by a 2-year pathologist and is a tin-foiled Clyde, a statuette 6 inches high, typifying the ever-alert watchdog of the lab--fire extinguisher under the arm, paint can slung over the shoulder, and soft-soled pacifier in his mouth. See, not all history is dry, boring stuff! Other interesting articles called attention to the unnecessarily high number of differentials being ordered and the proper dilutions of lab cleaning/disinfecting solutions. Col Robert Morrison, USAF, MC became President at this 3rd Annual SAFMLS meeting and the Society's official seal was approved by the general membership. No program was found but the Constitution was amended by the general membership to include an Emeritus Member status for retired members; an honorary membership category for those otherwise qualified for membership but who retired before SAFMLS was formed; and the dues were set at \$2 per annum payable at the time of registration.

The 16th Annual USAF Laboratory Symposium/**4th Annual** SAFMLS meeting was held 10-12 September 1974 at the Bourbon Orleans Ramada in New Orleans and was hosted by USAF Medical Center Keesler. The SAFMLS President was Col Robert "Nick" Nikolewski, USAF, BSC; the Vice-President was Col Harry Schwamm, USAF, MC; the Treasurer was Lt Col James Gunter, USAF, BSC; and the Secretary was Maj Hubert "Bud" Wrenn, USAF, BSC. There also were three staff members: Executive Secretary - Lt John Ulrich, USAF, BSC; Special Assistant to the President for Junior Laboratory Officers - Lt Gary Wandmacher, USAF, BSC; and Historian - Lt Col Sherwood Hill, USAF, BSC. The Board of Directors included: Col William Cowan, USAF, MC; Col Bill Price, USAF, BSC; Col Harry Schwamm, USAF, MC; Col Hal Etter, USAF, BSC; Col (Ret.) Claude Leeper, USAF, MC; Col J.R. Snoga, USAF, MC; Maj Chandler Cheek, USAF, BSC; and Capt Victor Bowan, USAF, BSC. The Board of Directors met the first day while every one else was registering (just as we do today) and the first evening featured a cocktail party. The meeting format was as we have today with papers, workshops, a roundtable luncheon (as we used to have an "Ask the Experts" luncheon), and breakout sessions. An evening recognition banquet was held on the next to the last evening, after the annual business meeting. Col William Cowan, USAF, MC became President at this meeting. The treasury held \$888.09 and the membership included 17 pathologists and 115 biomedical lab officers. The general membership also voted unanimously to become a Tri-Service organization and change the shield to read Society of Armed Forces versus Air Force Medical Laboratory

Scientists. The motion to admit affiliate members, defined as those who support the goals of the Society but who are not now eligible for membership was made but not seconded. Admittance of senior enlisted members was likewise tabled for more study. Annual awards were created; they were Junior Officer, Best Scientific Presentation, and President's Award.

The 1975 program heralds itself as the Seventeenth Annual USAF Laboratory Symposium (which it was) and the First Annual Meeting of SAFMLS (which it was if you consider the AF to be Armed Forces, but, if you consider AF to be Air Force, it was really the **5th SAFMLS** meeting). This convention of using 1971 as the first SAFMLS meeting date is established and the historian will date from that number, as that is the official incorporation date for the Air Force Society whose name was later amended to read *Armed Forces Society*. This meeting is the first time AF members officially greeted new members from sister services. This 29 -31 October 1975 meeting was held at the USAF Academy with housing at the Sheraton outside the south entrance to the Academy. The banquet, social events, and breakfasts were all held at the hotel and foreshadowed what has become tradition, especially at the San Antonio SAFMLS meetings. Room rates were \$16/night for a single or \$18/night for a double. The treasury had \$1601.62. This was the first meeting to feature greetings from all services (Corps Chiefs and/or flag officers) and the first to have an official theme "Unity in Laboratory Medicine, An Alliance in Progress." The officers included: President - Col William Cowan, USAF, MC; V-P - Col Hal Newman, USAF, BSC; Executive Secretary - Maj "Bud" Wrenn, USAF, BSC; Treasurer - Lt Col James Gunter, USAF, BSC; Recording Secretary - Capt Rich Krieg, USAF, BSC; Proceedings Editor - Maj Richard Kammeier, USAF, BSC. The Board of Directors lists Col William Cowan, USAF, MC, Col William Price, USAF, BSC, Col Harry Schwamm, USAF, MC, Col Hal Etter, USAF, BSC, Col (Ret.) Claude Leeper, USAF, MC, Col J.R. Snoga, USAF, MC, Lt Col James Gunter, USAF, BSC, Col Hal Newman, USAF, BSC, Maj Chandler Cheek, USAF, BSC, Capt Richard Krieg, USAF, BSC and 1Lt John Ulrich, USAF, BSC. The format was standard including workshops and papers as well as instrument reviews by various laboratory officers. The opening session began on Wednesday and was followed with "Political Trends Affecting Laboratory Medicine" and "An Historical Overview of Laboratory Development." After lunch, the automated data processing sessions were held, followed by SAFMLS committee reports and a cocktail party after hours. Thursday featured instrument evaluations and a roundtable luncheon discussion format was again used. Papers completed the afternoon sessions prior to the cocktail party and banquet Thursday evening. Friday was devoted to the DoD Military Blood Program and blood bank topics, accreditation, registration, licensure, aircraft investigations and after lunch, a split-out of lab officer and pathologist topics. Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting included: eliminating membership cards; and choosing a new officer slate to include President - Maj Chandler Cheek, USAF, BSC, V-P - Maj Tom Roberts, USAF, MC, Recording Secretary LCDR Bates, MSC, USN, Army Board Member - Col Frank Kiel, and AF Board Members Maj Dick Kammeier, USAF, BSC and Col Billy Joe Robertson, USAF, BSC. The frequency of publication of *Proceedings* was discussed and a minimum of three issues a year was decided. Guidelines for exhibitors was discussed and tabled for the new president. At the general business meeting, a

membership committee was formed to allow for review of membership applications more than once a year.

The 18th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and **6th Annual SAFMLS** meeting was held in San Antonio at the St. Anthony Hotel 4-6 October 1976. A copy of this program does not exist in present files. At the opening Board of Directors Meeting on 4 Oct, the Board decided that the next three annual meeting dates would be the first two weeks in October at: 1977 - Washington DC Area 1979 - San Antonio Area 1978 - San Francisco Area. The Board decided that the new president should create a committee to study by-laws. They also agreed to honorary memberships to MG Meyers, USAF, MC and MG Neal, USA, MC. A committee was created to study creating a membership category for vendors. Elections produced this slate of officers: President - Col Frank Kiel, USA (this caused him to resign his Army Board position which was filled by Maj Bob Usury, MSC, USA); V-P - Lt Col Gerald "Norm" Black, USAF, BSC; Recording Secretary - Maj Bob Desjardins, USAF, BSC; Treasurer - Lt Col Sherwood Hill, USAF, BSC; USAF Board Members - Capt Gary Wandmacher and Lt Col "Nick" Nikolewski, USAF, BSC; and USN Board Member - CDR James Howell. The question of investing treasury funds arose again but was answered in the negative as: (1) the increasing costs of "The Proceedings" would preclude it; (2) the IRS would tax the interest; and (3) as the treasury had been as low as \$600, we really did not have enough capital to invest.

7th Annual SAFMLS - A review of the 1977 SAFMLS membership shows a total of 321 members. The breakout is as follows: Army = 104 members (32% of total); Navy = 33 members (10% of total); and Air Force = 184 members (58% of total). The opening Board of Directors' Meeting shows a healthy treasury of \$10,122.16 (prior to meeting expenses). The Board set the following budget: "Proceedings - \$2000; Midyear meeting - \$2000; Seminars approved by PACE or other continuing education credits (cec/ceu) - \$1000; Administrative costs - \$1000. Attendance certificates were approved and were to be mailed after the meeting. The Board also decided 400 copies of the program were not enough and that the program needed to be developed sooner for maximum participation. The feasibility of American Society for Medical Technology and College of American Pathologists continuing education credits was discussed, as were the costs of speakers and the President's Reception. The annual awards were abolished at this meeting and there is no indication as to why that was done. Constitutional changes were proposed for the general business meeting. Membership for enlisted members who were at the supervisory level and who had acceptable educational levels was again discussed. The idea was to be brought before the membership and the criteria set by the Board prior to the next meeting. The position of President-Elect first appeared at this meeting and in this revision of our constitution. There were so many proposed changes that the President referred the entire constitution back to committee and members would be apprised of these changes in "Proceedings." The changes were then to be voted on at the next General Membership meeting. Only one copy of "Proceedings" had been published in 1977 and at least two publishers were interested in helping. Quarterly publication was the goal. The 1978 meeting location was decided to be Seattle as the hotels were big enough to

accommodate vendors, which were becoming a major source of revenue for SAFMLS. The 1979 location was deferred. Lt Col Norm Black was nominated for President, LTC Marshall Hinckley was nominated for V-P, LCDR Don Collings was nominated for Recording Secretary; Col J. Neal and Col James Jennings were nominated as AF Board Members. At the general membership meeting, the President, V-P and recording Secretary were elected by acclamation. Lt Col Gerry Heckman, USAF, BSC was nominated and elected as a Board Member as was Col James Jennings. There were 24 exhibitors and this is the first program to list exhibitors. This meeting ran Tuesday through Thursday and featured military tours to nearby labs on Wednesday and wives' activities each day. The latter was a first for SAFMLS and has become tradition. The theme of this 19th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the 7th Annual SAFMLS Meeting was "What's New in '77?" One hundred fifty laboratorians attended and enjoyed all the festivities especially when the Williamsburg chefs placed a wax coated turkey on the President's Reception Main Buffet and the guests tried diligently to carve it. That was a real sight and caused many laughs through the years. The beauty of Historic Williamsburg was enjoyed by all. This meeting featured a keynote address on "Laboratory Legislation, A.K.A. CLIA 1977" by Mr. Spencer Johnson, a U.S. Senate Staffer; and had the first ever evening sessions (the idea was later dropped, resurrected, and dropped again for lack of attendance). There were no workshops, just paper presentations and those read only by title. There was no Awards Luncheon as the awards had been discontinued. We drank a lot of coffee and spent a lot of time in the exhibit area. Col Black began his long reign as Exhibit Coordinator, steadily gaining exhibitors and revenue for the Society.

The **8th Annual SAFMLS** meeting was held at Seattle Sea-Tac's Red Lion Inn, 9-11 Oct 1978. This was the 20th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium; its theme was "What's Happening in the Armed Forces Clinical Laboratory." This meeting ran Monday to Wednesday and had spouses' activities for all three days and evening social events such as the President's Reception on Sunday, the King Tutankhamun exhibit on Monday and the Keona Indian Village Salmon Bake and Tribal Dance Show on Tuesday (the ferry ride was fantastic). Some enterprising members even found time to do a little fishing of their own and on their own time too! MG Kenneth Dirks, Superintendent of the Academy of Health Sciences delivered the keynote address and there were four scientific paper sessions and workshops reappeared with PACE CEU credits. Nineteen papers were read by title and there were 39 exhibitors. A hot topic was the lab cost per outpatient visit. "Proceedings" records show three issues (8, 8 and 10 pages each) being published (800 copies each) for a cost of \$2,108.95 and total postage of \$313.00.

The 21st Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **9th Annual SAFMLS** Meeting returned to the El Tropicana Hotel in San Antonio 15-19 Oct 1979. Its theme was "Management." The officers were: President - Col James Jennings, USAF, MC; V-P - Lt Col James Spiker, MSC, USA; Recording Secretary - LCDR K. Ken Barr, MSC, USN; Executive Secretary - Maj Diane Charpentier, USAF, BSC; and President-Elect - LCDR Dean Schubert, MSC, USN. Tuesday began opening ceremonies and the keynote address; "There *IS* a Better Way to Do It-- Find It" was

given by John Demidovich, Ph.D., Col, USAF (Ret.) a Professor of Management at the Air Force Institute of Technology. This meeting was the first to also feature a second speaker that morning, Lt Col Thomas Janke of the Academy of Health Sciences, whose topic was "Communications in Management: Be Aware and Make It Work." SAFMLS was once again ahead of its time in realizing our young clinical laboratory officers needed more management training. There were four paper sessions, 13 workshops, an "Ask the Experts" Luncheon, break out sessions, the annual meeting and a BBQ at the Pearl Brewery. There were 43 exhibitors. Projected attendance had been over 200 military members but there are no Board Minutes to confirm attendance and a Congressional/White House budget impasse precluded many from attending.

The April 1980 "Proceedings" (Vol. 9, No. 2) states that an historic first occurred when our President-Elect, General Dirks retired. President Schubert requested Col Wrenn to head the Nominating Committee to present a remedy for this situation to the membership. It was at this meeting that the determination was made to change the meeting dates, beginning in 1982, to the second-quarter of the fiscal year. The "Proceedings" had grown to 12 pages and an expanded circulation. The 22nd Annual USAF and **10th Annual SAFMLS Meeting** began 12 Nov 1980 at Stouffer's National Center Hotel in Arlington VA. Its theme was "Laboratory Improvement in the 80's: Quo Vadis?" Workshops began the program on Wednesday, opening ceremonies were on Thursday, scientific posters appeared for the first time, and there were three scientific paper sessions. Saturday contained the balance of workshops. Social events included the President's reception and an evening at Mt. Vernon as well as the "Ask the Experts" luncheon. We had 42 exhibitors but the number purchasing more than one booth was up. Beckman bought three and Instrumentation Laboratories purchased four. Society Officers were: Pres. - CDR Deane Schubert, MSC, USN; Pres.-Elect - Vacant; V-P - Col Raymond Bennett, Jr., USAF, MC; Recording Secretary - Maj Robert Usry, MSC, USA; Treasurer - Maj Gerald "Jake" Jacobs, MSC, USA; and Executive Secretary - Maj Virgil Coley, MSC, USA. In a real Shake-Up, the "old" V-P (Col Raymond Bennett) moved up to President, the "old" Recording Secretary (MAJ (P) Robert Usry) became President-Elect, the "new" V-P was Col James Gunter, USAF, BSC, Recording Secretary became LCDR J.R. Lindberg, MSC, USN, the AF Board Member was Capt Tom Cross, USAF, BSC, the Navy Board Member was LCDR Charles Myers, MSC, USN and the Army Board Member was Col Ronny Joe Sayers. For the first time ever, "Proceedings" published a symposium summary of papers.

Due to the change in meeting dates, a 1981 meeting was not held. The 23rd Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **11th Annual SAFMLS Meeting** at the Renos Harrah's Convention Center had "War Readiness and/Mobilization and the Military Laboratory" as its theme. Held 21-25 March 1982, its keynote speech was "Military Medicine and the Battlefield of the Future" by BG Edward Burka, MC, USAR. There were two paper sessions on readiness concepts and doctrine and a blood program session on Monday afternoon after the opening ceremonies. The annual business meeting ended the normal duty day. The evening session was an industry sponsored session and ran from 1900-2040 hours. Four more paper sessions completed Tuesday. Posters (14 participants) and workshops were the fare on

Wednesday, along with the "Meet the Experts" Luncheon. The day ended with the military breakout sessions. Thursday brought more workshops lasting until 1200 hours; travel or leave time then began. There were 40 exhibitors. Attendees included 333 military, 56 civilians, and 180 exhibitors. For the first time ever there were large numbers of Army and Air Force Reservists. Shortly after this meeting, the editorship of "Proceedings" passed from Col Bud Wrenn to LCDR Pat Monaghan, MSC, USN. Col Wrenn did remain on the editorial board.

The 1983 meeting (24th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and **12th SAFMLS Meeting**) was held in San Antonio at the Convention Center, 19-23 March. The theme was "Challenges in the Military Laboratory in the 1980's - The Laboratory in Transition." The convention hotel was the Hyatt Regency, a few blocks from the Convention Center. The workshops, Board of Directors Meeting and the President's Reception were held at the hotel. Workshops were held Saturday and Sunday and there were a total of 38 but some of these were repeat sessions. This was a Saturday to Wednesday meeting. The opening session and keynote address by Col J.C. Bisgard, USAF, MC on "Medical Science - A Thirst for the Unknown," were on Monday, as was the Mobilization/War Readiness Symposium and the Business Meeting plus an evening session of seven topics. Tuesday's agenda included a Board of Directors Breakfast, scientific papers (a total of 29 oral presentations) and a second evening session of seven topics. These two evening sessions were industry sponsored papers. Wednesday's fare included panel discussions on special interest topics, e/g., readiness, microbiology, managing lab costs etc., a Meet the Experts Luncheon, followed by Military Breakout Sessions. The dinner theater that evening was "Beloved Enemies" with Kay Ballard, Imogene Coca, and King Donovan. We had a total of 13 posters, 80 exhibitors (13 of these were free booths given to our R&D labs etc.).

The 25th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **13th SAFMLS** meeting was held in March 1984 at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC. I have no program or issues of the "Proceedings" for background material on this meeting.

The 26th Annual USAF Symposium and the **14th SAFMLS** meeting site was Reno at the MGM Grand Hotel in Mar 1985 and it actually did snow upward (thanks to the swirling wind currents between the towers). At the Business Meeting, the President, COL William York announced the resignation of the President-Elect, CDR John Jemionek, and named LCDR Don Smith as his successor. This was the Society's first resignation by an officer. COL Gary Clark was also named as the new Editor of "Proceedings," replacing LT Jerry Holmberg. The Treasury had a cash balance of \$25,029.28 and a membership of 845. In response to the membership's request, a Constitutional Committee was selected charged with the rewriting the Constitution in time for presentation at the 1987 Annual Business Meeting. It was further agreed, by vote, that there would be two Reserve Component members on this committee, and they would have full voting status on the new constitution.

The 27th USAF and the **15th SAFMLS** meeting moved back to San Antonio at the Convention Center. As we could not get enough rooms at the symposium hotel (the

Marriott) we had rooms there, at the Menger, the Sheraton Palacio del Rio, the Hyatt, and the La Mansion. This was the largest SAFMLS yet and for the first time, the attendance (guests, vendors, and registered attendees) reached 1000 persons. Registration created a sleepless night for the Planning Committee as the two borrowed computers crashed and all pre-registration materials were lost the night before registration opened. Maj Novak, and CPT Mike Stanton, with the help of CPT Barb Biggerstaff stayed up all night to assign personnel to workshops, make out tickets for the Awards Banquet and President's Reception and all the other tasks associated with getting ready for a meeting. MG William P. Winkler, Jr., MC, USA, the Commandant of the Academy of Health Sciences, delivered the Keynote Address on "Medical Service at the Crossroads." This was the first keynote ever reproduced in its entirety in the "Proceedings." LTC Jerry Moses, MSC, USA, the USAR Advisor to the Academy of Health Sciences, presented a keynote entitled "Where is the Strategic Reserve" at the USAR Dinner. The Society's officers were: President - LCDR Donald A. Smith, MSC, USN; President-Elect - Maj Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, BSC; V-P - LTC Joe Michels, MSC, USA; Recording Secretary - CPT Barbara Biggerstaff, MSC, USA; Treasurer - Lt Col Gary A. Wandmacher, USAF, BSC. The Board Members were: COL Mike Smith, USAF, MC; LTC Dennis Hohn, MSC, USA; Lt Col Roby P. Joyce, MC, USA, LCDR Joe White, MSC, USN; CAPT Kenneth L. Sims, MC, MSC, USN. The Outstanding Young Clinical Scientist was CPT John C. Schilhab, MSC, USA. CPT Robert S. Borowski, MSC, USA was named the Outstanding Young Research Scientist. The Outstanding Young Laboratory Administrator Award was garnered by Capt Melonee J. Hartzman, USAF, BSC. LTC Lloyd E. Lippert, MSC, USA won the Best Poster Award for his presentation on "Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms and Their Application to Analysis of the Major Histocompatibility Complex." The Best Paper Award went to Capt Patricia A. Reilly, USAF, BSC for "use of the Cytocentrifuge in the Hematologic Evaluation of Body Fluids." The Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Ft Sam Houston Officer's Club in September 1986. The Treasury had a cash balance of \$53,884.73. A comparative cost analysis of the last five annual meetings was presented. The Society also finally bought a COMPAQ Portable as well as a Z-148 with 640K RAM for a total cost of \$7,422.00. Membership stood at 868 members.

For the second time, a membership drive among the VA was attempted with information packets being gathered and sent. It later was found to be as unfruitful as the first in late 1984. COL Clark was making modifications in the journal to improve its quality, preparatory to having a Library of Congress registration number assigned to raise its academic stature. CPT Robert Borowski was selected as the journal's first advertising manager. The Baltimore Program Committee Reports were given. Col Norm Black suggested the Society now had the money to begin to pay for well-known keynote speakers and Maj Suellyn Wright Novak was detailed to get estimates but that a tentative cap for the Reno meeting was \$10,000. Maj Novak was to research this and an exact amount was to be allocated at the Board of Directors Breakfast in Baltimore. LTC Roby Joyce resigned from the Board due to his retirement. COL Clark was tasked to obtain a list of candidates for that position before the next Board meeting for a vote. The decision to delete the executive secretary position and rewrite the job description of the recording secretary and treasurer in order to clarify roles was proposed and sent to

the constitutional committee for inclusion in the rewriting effort. The idea of a society historian came up but no decision was made. The issue of rotating the presidency among the three services was discussed and the practice will continue. The idea of a permanent meeting site came up and Reno was suggested as this is the meeting the Society always makes money, as the costs are so low. The fact that San Antonio and Washington DC were chosen to have the most military attend (the military populations are high in these areas so the attendees and command costs are low) again won out and the sites will remain the Washington DC area, Reno and San Antonio. Again the pros/cons of a professional program manager arose but the talents of the membership won out. Affiliating with AMSUS and NACCLS were discussed and tabled as the benefits of doing so were unclear. Lt Col Rich Krieg, the chair of the Constitutional Amendment Committee, developed and published a survey in the Nov 1986 issue (Vol. 15, No.4) of "Proceedings" to determine how the membership felt about membership categories (Reserve/Guard to full membership, enlisted with baccalaureate and 4 years experience moving from associate to full members along with Veterans Administration and GS-8 and below) and if these groups are added or categories changed, should they have representation on the Board of Directors and should they be able to hold office?

The 28th USAF and the **16th SAFMLS** meeting was in Baltimore, 25 Feb - 1 Mar 1987 at the Convention Center and followed the standard meeting format. The convention hotel was the Hyatt Regency on the Inner Harbor. Room rates were \$89 single and \$99 for a double. At the Board of Directors Luncheon on 25 Feb 1987, membership stood at 951 members. Lt Col Krieg had received 50 responses to the Constitution Survey with the following results: (1) Reserve/Guard personnel and VA members should be full members if they meet the educational and experience requirements; (2) Majority vote should be changed to two-thirds; (3) the executive secretary was dropped; (4) wordsmithing on several job descriptions was proposed. A legal reading was needed before a decision could be made on releasing member's names and addresses to vendors. The Board approved Maj Suellyn Wright Novak as the Society's Historian. As LTC Michels was departing PCS for Germany, a new vendor coordinator was needed and Col Krieg got the nod. Workshop topics included; Status of AIDS Research; Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation; Pathology of Parasitic and Infectious Diseases; Interferences in Clinical Laboratory Medicine Measurements; Information Science: How to Use a Data Base; TRIMIS; Establishing a Frozen Blood Program; Team Building and Quality Circles; How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper; Computer Assisted Laboratory Management; Sexually Transmitted Diseases; Clinical Assays of Components of Blood Obtained From a Finger Stick; Applications for Monoclonal Antibody to Cell Surface Markers; and Detection of Ag-Ab Reactions for Infectious Diseases. LCDR Don Smith then left his mark on SAFMLS as he took it upon himself to do more than amass Lessons Learned as all of the officers had done before. He took all the planning and paperwork and reports of the Planning Committee and created the "Big Black and Gold Book" to guide all future Presidents and Planning Committee Chairpersons. Thanks, Don for this labor of love which the Society still uses for each meeting. New registration procedures of Lt Col Royce Brockett and Maj Jim Cerha alleviated most bottlenecks of the past years. At the annual business meeting, the decision was made to renegotiate a contract with the Baltimore Convention Center

for the 1990 meeting. The new constitution was approved after a title change from Advertisements Editor to Advertising Manager. The new officers were: President-Elect - LTC Gerald "Jake" Jacobs; V-P - MAJ Peter Ciment; Recording Secretary - LT Brenda Brown; AF Board Member - Maj Mike Caldwell; Army Board Member - COL Thomas Coppin; Navy Board Member - LCDR Terry Barrett. Nominations for the two new positions of Reserve and Enlisted Board Members were made and those elected were: Enlisted Member - 1SGT William Lawrence, USA; and Reserve Board Member - Maj Allan Reiter, USAFR, BSC. The attendance at this meeting was 1100 persons. COL Clark announced that the "Proceedings" would now be copyrighted and will have an ISSN number. He again made a plea for back issues of the journal. The membership approved release of names/addresses to vendors. For the first time ever, the Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting was held somewhere other than in San Antonio. This meeting was held at Phillip's Seafood Restaurant, on the waterfront, in Washington DC in September 1987.

The 29th USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **17th SAFMLS** meeting was held in Reno, NV, 20-24 March 1988, at Bally's Grand Hotel. Workshop topics included: Critical Issues in Maternal Serum Alpha Fetoprotein testing; CAP Laboratory Improvement/Inspector Orientation; Bone Tumors: Radiologic/Pathologic Correlation; Clinical Lab Correlation With Disease States; Advances in Sample Management; IMX: The Clinical Application of Microparticle Enzyme Immunoassay and Other Advances in Diagnostic Testing; Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS): The Laboratory Perspective; Understanding Evolving Information management Technology; New Technologies in Complete Cell Analysis; Advances in AIDS 29th USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the 16th SAFMLS meeting was held in Reno, NV 20-24 March 1988 at Bally's Grand Hotel. Workshop topics on the first day (this was the most workshops we had ever had -- 23) included: Critical Issues in Maternal Serum Alpha Fetoprotein testing; CAP Laboratory Improvement/Inspector Orientation; Bone Tumors: Radiologic/Pathologic Correlation; Clinical Lab Correlation With Disease States; Advances in Sample Management; IMX: The Clinical Application of Microparticle Enzyme Immunoassay and Other Advances in Diagnostic Testing; Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS): The Laboratory Perspective; Understanding Evolving Information Management Technology; New Technologies in Complete Cell Analysis; Advances in AIDS Serology and HTLV-III Update. Monday featured opening ceremonies and the Keynote Address by Dr. Tony Alessandra on "Relationship Strategies." He was our first paid keynote speaker and set the standard and tradition for later years. The General Officer Address, titled "Laboratory Medicine Management: A Challenge for All Laboratorians", was presented by BG Walter F. Johnson, III, the Chief, Medical Service Corps, USA. Scientific Papers, the Air Force HIV Screening Program workshop, and the Tri-Service Reserve Banquet, which was addressed by COL J.W. Buchanan, MSC, USA on "Reserve Component Contributions to Military Medical Readiness," ended the day. Tuesday's agenda included Scientific Papers, the Navy/Air Force Reserve Luncheon, and Breakout Session, the General Business Meeting and the Tactical Air Command Officer/NCO Meeting as well as the one for the Strategic Air Command. On Wednesday, workshop titles (most of them being two hour ones) included: Create Championship Labs: Four Steps to Improved Productivity; Workload reporting and Its

Application to Laboratory Management; Quality Assurance in Clinical and Anatomic Pathology; Update on the Armed Services Blood Program; Pathology of Gastrointestinal Polyps; TDM and DAU Testing on Technicon Instruments; The Human Lyphotropic Retroviruses: Review and Methods for Serologic Study; Medical Malpractice in the Military; Hepatic Tumors in Children; Sexually Transmitted Diseases; Methods of Analysis, Quality Assurance, and Clinical Significance of Steroid Hormone Receptors. From 1730-2030 hours, there was a wet workshop on Deglycerolizing Frozen Red Blood Cells. This workshop was presented by the Naval Blood Research Laboratory of Boston, MA and co-sponsored by Haemonetics Corporation who shipped in their Model 115 instruments.

The Air Force in particular, sent many personnel to this workshop (which became a standard one for SAFMLS), as this was an excellent way to ensure our personnel were trained on the instrumentation they would use when they were deployed to the theaters. The awards luncheon was held on Wednesday at noon and was followed by the service breakout sessions. Thursday started with the Board of Directors Breakfast and then featured the first ever Wrap-Up session with a workshop on Management and Teamwork Top Performance by Mr. Mike Wickett. The afternoon of Thursday was a travel day for participants. The Society's officers for this meeting were: President - Maj Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, BSC; VP - MAJ Peter Ciment, MS, USA; President-Elect - LTC Gerald Jacobs, MS, USA; Secretary - LT Brenda Brown, MSC, USN; and Treasurer - Lt Col Gary Wandmacher, USAF, BSC. The Board Members were: COL Thomas Coppin, MS, USA; Col Mike Smith, USAF, MC; LTC Dennis Hohn, MS, USA; LCDR Perry Barrett, MC, MSC, USN; Maj Michael Caldwell, USAF, BSC; Maj Ted Hadfield, USAF, BSC; LCDR Joe White, MSC, USN; Maj Allan Reiter, USAFR, BSC; and SFC William Lawrence, USA. The Outstanding Young Laboratory Manager was Capt Debra M. Niemeyer, USAF, BSC. The Outstanding Young Clinical Scientist was 1 Lt Jeffrey L. Bryant, USAF, BSC and the Outstanding Young Research and Development Scientist was CPT Robert E. Miller, MS, USA. Our new President, LTC Gerald "Jake" Jabobs took over the gavel at the end of this meeting. But, in July, due to a change in career plans (retirement), Jake had to resign and Vice President, MAJ Mike Romo took the reins. Elected to office at this meeting were: our new Secretary- Capt Paula S. Simon, USAF, BSC and President-Elect - CAPT Dennis Johnson, MC, MSC, USN, Navy Director - LT Connie Gladding, MSC, USN; Army Director - LTC Bruce Gunn, MS, USA; and USAF Director - Lt Col James Gagnier, USAF, MC. The treasury held \$83,925 and membership stood at a strong 1027 members. Col Krieg stated at the business meeting that the vendors brought in over \$75,000 in revenue for the Society; there were 129 vendor booths, with a total of 75 different vendors. Several people had applied for membership but were not eligible as their bachelor degree was not in a laboratory related field. After having been discussed and approved at the 20 Mar 1988 Board of Directors Meeting, Maj Novak proposed a change to the Constitution's By Law 1a to allow membership to those persons having "a bachelor degree with at least 45 semester hours in Laboratory Science." Also the new applications were changed to include the signature of a sponsor who was tasked to verify the number of hours. The requirement for years of experience in laboratory medicine was dropped. A committee was formed to establish a laboratory computer bulletin board to share information and

good ideas to include standardized operating instructions etc. The closing Board of Directors Breakfast also brought forth the concept of a European Chapter of SAFMLS, which was later to come in being. Later that summer, after the annual meeting, our Advertising Manager, CPT Robert S. Borowski, MS, USA was reassigned to Germany and had to resign his post.

As the 30th Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **18th Annual SAFMLS Meeting** was to be held in San Antonio, the Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting again returned to San Antonio. It was held at the Marriott Hotel on the Riverwalk on 9 September 1988. LTC Dennis Hohn was the Planning Committee Chairman and presented his ideas. LTC Michels sent a position paper to spell out the details for the European Chapter of SAFMLS. The December 1988 edition of the "Proceedings" (Vol. 17, No.4), featured a new format. This is the blue covered, glossy page format we all now recognize. The size and quality of the entire journal improved substantially, as did the cost of publication. The Annual meeting was held at the Convention Center, with the Marriott Riverwalk being the convention hotel, from 3-7 Mar 1989 and featured the first, through the weekend format. At the 3 March Board of Directors Meeting, held the day before the opening ceremonies, the creation of the European Chapter of SAFMLS was approved and readied for the membership vote and there was more discussion of the electronic bulletin board to be operated by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. New business included the proposal to have SAFMLS representation on the CDC steering committee on requirements for laboratory personnel training. Also COL Clark, the editor of the "Proceedings," proposed changing "Proceedings" to "Journal of Military Medical Laboratory Science" and selling and distributing it, as a journal, through MEDLINE. Col Krieg stated we would have 122 booths with five free technical ones, e.g., DEPMEDS, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine and AFIP, and that our revenue from the vendors would be over \$70,000. Lt Col Wandmacher reported a cash balance of \$84,612. We had a total of 22 workshops divided between Friday, 3 Mar and Sunday, 5 March 1989. Workshops completed that duty day with the President's Reception following that evening. Saturday featured opening ceremonies with the Keynote Address by CMSgt Robert Gaylor, USAF (Ret.). He ably filled in for Dr. Jerry B. Harvey, a Professor of Management Science at George Washington in Washington DC who had been scheduled but had to cancel. Scientific Papers, Army and Air Force Councils of Colonels meetings and the Tri-Service Reserve Banquet (the speaker was Maj Sidney M. Gutierrez, USAF, astronaut) ended the day. Sunday featured a Fun Run (finally Mother Nature consented to allow this event which had been attempted at least twice before), the Tri-Service Drug Laboratory Managers Meeting, the Navy/Air Force Reserve Luncheon and Breakout Session, more Scientific Papers and the General Business Meeting. At the latter, the amendment to the Constitution spelling out the membership requirement to have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree with at least 45 semester hours in laboratory science was approved by the general membership. As Chairman of the Nomination Committee, Maj Suellyn Wright Novak presented the slate of Officers for the Society. They were: President - CDR William D. Wurzel, MC, MSC, USN; Lt President-Elect - Col Mike Dickerson, USAF, MC; VP - Lt Col Mike Caldwell, USAF, BSC; Treasurer - LT Celia A. Arrants, MSC, USN; Secretary - LTC Lloyd E. Lippert, MS, USA; AF Board Member - Maj Ted L.

Hadfield, USAF, BSC; Army Board Member - Col Jerry E. Simms, MC, USA; Navy Board Member - CAPT Duwayne H. Bobert, MC, MSC, USN; reserve Board Member - MAJ JeanMarie Marie McNamara; and Enlisted Board Member - MSgt John C. Kiefer. All were elected by acclamation. The name change of the journal was approved. The Society Historian made a plea for historical data and discussed with "Plank Owners" the desire to send audiotapes out and just have the founding members start talking about the early years. Twelve original members agreed. In the evening the TAC and SAC Officer/NCO meetings were held as was the Army Blood Bankers Meeting and the Army Cholesterol Standardization Meeting.

Activities on Monday, 6 Mar, included Scientific Papers, the Tri-Service Reserve/Guard Briefing, the Military Breakout Sessions, split up by the Awards Luncheon. The Best Poster was "In Vitro Evidence for Synergy Between *F. mortiferum* and *E. coli*" by CPT David K. Turgeon, MS, USA. The Best Presentation was "Evaluation of the Lupus Anticoagulant Effects of the Brown Recluse Spider Venom on Normal Plasma" by David L. McGlasson, MS, CLS/NCA. The Outstanding Young Clinical Scientist was Capt Danny G. Seanger, USAF, BSC, the Outstanding Young Research and Development Scientist was CPT R. Paul Schaudies, MS, USA and the Outstanding Young Laboratory Manager was Capt Samuel J.P. (Phil) Livingstone, USAF, BSC. The Past President's Award went to COL Gary B. Clark for making the journal a world-class publication. Tuesday opened with the Board of Directors Breakfast and then the wrap up speaker, Mr. Lou Heckler before personnel left for home. The June 1989 issue was the first to reflect the new journal's name and the editor was now LTC Thomas K. Hathaway, MS, USA. COL Clark remained on the Editorial Advisory Board. The Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting was held in Washington DC at AFIP on 20 Sep 1989. The status of our Journal of Military Medical Laboratory Science (JMMLS) being included in INDEX MEDICUS was again discussed but we need to have at least four issues published after changing the name. Therefore, this decision could not be made before July 1990. A special award for our publisher, Ms. Carla Wynn, was approved by the Board, to be presented at the 1990 Awards Banquet. To attempt to lower the journal's costs, the Board approved sending CONUS members their journal at third-class rates and using a commercial mailing service for labeling and sorting. APO and FPO addressees would continue receiving theirs at first-class rates. Estimated savings were \$1500 per mailing. An added savings of \$200 was expected when the Postal Service recognized the Society's non-profit status. The treasury had a cash balance of \$50,798. The Board also approved dropping the requirement for "less than 10 years active duty" for the Outstanding Young Enlisted Service Member Award and approved creation of the Outstanding Young Reservist Award, waiving the requirement that "deeds cited must have been accomplished while on active duty." They also approved an award for the member sponsoring the most new members during the period between annual meetings. The European Chapter's Charter was approved, as was the expenditure of \$600 to rent two computers for the annual meeting. The position of editor of JMMLS was selected as a non-voting member of the Board. This required a change to the Constitution and By-Laws and was to be voted on at the General Business Meeting in Baltimore in 1990. After the annual meeting, Lt Col Suellyn Novak sent the 12 audiotapes out to founding members. None were ever

returned even after numerous phone calls. No historical material was forwarded but personal records formed the basis of this formal history.

The 31st Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **19th SAFMLS Meeting** was held in the Baltimore Convention Center, with Stouffer's Hotel as the Convention Hotel, 6-10 March 1990 (a Tuesday - Saturday meeting). The 6 Mar Board of Directors Meeting revealed a treasury of only \$37,744 down from a cash balance of \$84,612 in a year; this drop was due to increased journal costs. The Society stood at 1196 members. The member winning the membership drive was to be announced at the Awards Banquet. The slate of Ex-Officio Members of the European Chapter was presented. These were: Lt Col Royce Brockett, USAF, BSC; Col Howard Tchou, USAF, MC; LTC (P) Joe Michels, MS, USA - Chairman Elect; COL Vladimir Jarorotsky, MC, USA; CDR Tom Wadsworth, MSC, USN; LCDR Harold Poston, MC, MSC, USN; MAJ G. Michael Fitzpatrick, MS, USA. The ad hoc committee on adjunct membership report, given by Col Krieg advised to retain the current educational requirements. This committee had been tasked to examine the need to change membership qualifications to enhance participation by enlisted personnel and facilitate membership by NATO nation personnel through the European Chapter. The idea of changing our meeting dates to later in the spring, in order to avoid conflicts with ASCP and CAP meetings, was discussed but no change was made. This was due to our meetings being set for five years out and the fact we have grown so large. In order to continue financing the journal, which is one of our top priorities, many options were discussed but further study was needed; the topic will be addressed at the mid-year meeting. Upon further research, LTC Hathaway found that SAFMLS could not meet the US Postal Service criteria for third class bulk mailings. The regular third-class mailing is useable and will be used. There were 24 workshops split, as usual between the day before opening ceremonies and, this time, the last day. The rest of the meeting followed what was now standard format. A concentrated effort at increasing Reserve and especially Air and Army National Guard members finally bore fruit as each individual unit was contacted and more representation was noted. This meeting followed our time-honored format. The opening speaker was Dennis W. Weissman, President of "Washington G-2 Reports," an independent news and communication company serving the health care industry. His topic was "CLIA '88 and Its Impact on the Laboratory." The speaker at the Tri-service Reserve Dinner was CAPT Ralph Diverio, USCGR, on "The Price of Freedom and we again tried the evening Vendor Presentations, with the same results, the attendance was light. At the Thursday General Business Meeting, and as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Maj Suellyn W. Novak presented the slate of officers for 1990: President - Col Mike Dickerson, USAF, MC; President - Elect - LTC (P) Thomas H. Sprague, MS, USA; VP - MAJ Edwin K. Armitage, MS, USA; Secretary - LCDR Connie Ann Gladding, MSC, USN; Air Force Board Member - Lt Col Sushita M. Patel, USAF, MC; Army Board Member - LTC Lloyd E. Lippert, MS, USA; and Navy Board Member - LCDR Michael A. Weaver, MSC, USN. The slate was elected by acclamation. We had 113 exhibitors with five of these being free booths.

The 1991 annual meeting was set as 24-28 Mar at Bally's in Reno, the 1992 meeting was 12-16 Apr at the San Antonio Convention Center and the 1993 meeting

was to be at the Omni Shoreham in Washington DC 14-18 February. Friday's Awards Luncheon gave the following awards: Best Poster - "Molecular- and Species Specific Toxicity of Poly-CTFE, A Nonflammable Aviation Hydraulic Fluid" by Capt Christopher E. Jones, USAF, BSC, et al. Best Paper - "The Lyme Pandemic: Strategies for Control" by MAJ Dale R. Hamilton, MSC, USAR; Outstanding Laboratory Manager - Capt Debra M. Niemeyer, USAF, BSC Our first two time winner - she also won this award in 1988 at the Reno meeting; Outstanding Clinical Scientist - LCDR Marjorie Ann Bianco, MSC, USN; Outstanding R & D Scientists - CPT Karl E. Friedl, MS, USA; Outstanding Reserve/National Guard Laboratory Scientist - Lt Col Allan J. Reiter, USAFR, BSC; and Outstanding Enlisted Service Member - MSgt John C. Kiefer, USAF. Note that this was the year the word "Young" disappeared from the award titles. The Past President's Award went to COL James E. Spiker for his many contributions to the Society. The closing Board Meeting, on Saturday morning, featured a fond farewell to COL James Spiker who was retiring and a welcome given to his successor, COL Robert Pick. Our President, Col Mike Dickerson, opened a discussion regarding our financial situation and outlined issues with dues and those who are not current, database tracking of European members, membership expiration dates on the journal labels, the journal budget, and auditor's recommendations. Col Dickerson will publish, in his President's Message what actions if dues are not current, he will also prepare a draft change to the By-Laws concerning dues. The Treasurer and Secretary, at the mid-year board meeting are to prepare a current roster of members whose dues are current and those who are not. LTC Hathaway was to prepare, again for the mid-year board meeting, a proposed journal budget. MAJ Armitage would provide, for inclusion in the June issue, a one-time solicitation to the membership to contribute funds to sustain the journal. The June journal would use the revised label with the membership expiration date. The Treasurer's Report was now to include Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable totals, specifically for meeting exhibits, journal, and other annual meeting expenditures. The Board also approved inviting a European Chapter representative to attend each annual Board of Directors Meeting. Lt Col Caldwell was to update CDR Smith's "Big Black and Gold Book" on annual meeting preparations. An appeal was made of the Board Members to send "Society Holdings" and to forward pertinent memorabilia to the Society Historian, Maj Suellyn W. Novak.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the resultant "Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM" did what no other act of God could do -- cancel an annual meeting. Our officers remained in office and the Society continued to march forward. In the interim, LTC Hathaway was succeeded by LTC Arthur Rosenberg, as the Editor-in-Chief of JMMLS.

The winter 1991 edition (Vol. 20, No. 2) debuted "The Reader Service Form" to receive information on products and services advertised in JMMLS.

The 32nd USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and the **20th SAFMLS Meeting** was held in San Antonio on 12-15 April 1992. Highlights of the 12 Apr Board of Directors Meeting were: (1) Treasurer's Report showed a cash balance of \$16,390 in contrast to the \$3,403 of December 31, 1990; (2) membership stood at 1294 with 145 in

inactive status; (3) the Board approved changes to the Constitution and By-Laws concerning dues, which were raised to \$15/year payable by 31 Dec of each year. Members who are in arrears by 30 Jun of the following year are suspended; (4) 629 members pre-registered and the projected meeting cost was \$71,605. Revenues were \$94,000 from vendors (106 booths); (5) MAJ McNamara requested review of mailing procedures on pre-registrations as the reserve community had not been included and the Ex-Officio members committed to including reservists in their newsletter mailings; (6) LCDR presented the vision and mission statements and the guiding principles, these were approved and sent on to the general membership meeting for comment and a vote; (7) the auditor's recommendation that the Treasurer notify the President prior to payments in excess of \$4000 and requiring Treasurer receipt of all invoices prior to payment; (8) our President, and one other member chosen at the next Board meeting, would represent SAFMLS at the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) on the Consensus Forum to define and clarify areas of common ground, to formulate realistic problem-solving recommendations of a consensus nature for strengthening common ground, improving unity and total team effort for the future; (9) the Air Force Recognition Ribbon was authorized for all SAFMLS award winners. The 1992 meeting, using standard format, ran Sunday through Thursday.

Monday's Opening Session featured Mr. Kelsey Tyson as our opening speaker; the topic was management of our key resource - people. CLIA '88 also drove a two hour symposium on Monday afternoon. There were 23 workshops, four paper sessions (a total of 23 presentations) and 47 posters (the largest ever). Social events included a "Fiesta in San Antonio" night on Monday evening and a "Western Night" on Tuesday evening. At the Annual General Business Meeting on Tuesday reported that we had a total of 70 exhibitors (down markedly attributed to DESERT SHIELD/STORM canceling the 1991 meeting). The Society's officer nominees were: President-Elect - Lt Col Michael Caldwell, USAF, BSC; VP- LTC Michael Smith, MS, USA; Secretary - Maj Jo Haga, USAF, BSC; Treasurer - Capt Stephen Mikkelson, USAF, BSC; Reserve Board Member - CAPT Gerald McGlothlen; Enlisted Board Member - SMSgt John Kiefer, USAF; Air Force Board Member - Lt Col Morton H. Levitt, USAF, MC; Army Board Member - LTC Peter Ciment, MS, USA; Navy Board Member - LCDR Michael Brophy, MSC, USN. Nominees were elected by acclamation. The annual attendance was 1690. The Constitution and By-Laws changes were approved as were the vision and mission statements and guiding principles. The Tuesday evening Tri-Service Reserve Dinner was addressed, for the second time, by Astronaut Sidney M. Gutierrez, Lt Col, USAF. Wednesday's Awards Luncheon recognized the following members: (1) Outstanding Laboratory Manager - Lt Col Michael H. Caldwell, USAF, BSC (the first senior officer so honored and this then became the standard for the next several years); (2) Outstanding Clinical Scientist - CPT Bill Nauschuetz, MS, USA; (3) Outstanding R&D Scientist, Mr. Barry Levine, PhD, DAC; (4) Outstanding Reserve/National Guard Laboratory Scientist - Capt Nancy L. Boriack, USAF, BSC; (5) Outstanding Enlisted Service Member - TSgt Kenneth W. Moser, USAF; and the Past President's Award - Col Gary A. Wandmacher, USAF, BSC for his tireless support in many roles in SAFMLS. The Mid-Year Board Meeting was held in Bethesda, MD on 14 Sep 92. The treasury held \$26,849.71 and the Board approved a separate mailing of dues notices prior to the

end of the year. The Oct 92 JMMLS edition was to be 56 pages, would contain three papers and annual meeting information; it would cost \$6,260.00. The CLMA Consensus Forum and our participation by Cols Sprague and Warnken was therefore also on hold. Registration fees were also discussed, as before. The charter for the European Chapter was revoked, due to inactivity. More changes to the Constitution/By-Laws were proposed and clarified that member refers to full membership. Vendor-sponsored functions were found to not be a conflict of interest if they were open to all attendees (not directed toward individuals) and no business was conducted or if a mix of vendors supported social functions. Lifetime memberships were discussed and not approved.

The 33d Annual USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and **21st Annual SAFMLS** meeting was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC 14-18 February 1993 (a Sunday - Thursday meeting) and followed standard format. At the Board of Directors meeting on 14 February, the treasury had a healthy \$66,015.55 and membership stood at 1310 with 145 inactive members. The Nominating Committee had no nominee for President-Elect. The Board decided no registration fee could be charged as SAFMLS was held in conjunction with the USAF's Air Training Command Short Course, the Clinical Laboratory Symposium. COL Sprague reported on our tax-exempt status; as long as no remuneration is made to the Board Members and the Society can account for all expenditures, we will retain our tax-exempt status. A proposal to add Board Members from each of the Reserve Components was disapproved as that would make the Board too large and require added expenses to reimburse these members for travel to the mid-year Board meeting. Our keynote address was from The Honorable James W. Holsinger, Jr., MD, the Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs. The Total Forces Guest Speaker for their banquet was Congresswoman Louise Slaughter. We had a total of 17 workshops, 23 scientific papers, and 15 posters. Tuesday featured another CLIA/CLIP Symposium, the Reserve Forces Business Meeting, papers, career counseling, and the SAFMLS business meeting. At this meeting we elected Officers: President-Elect - LCDR Michael Brophy, MSC, USN; VP-Lt Col Frank H. Wians, USAF, BSC; Secretary - Maj Russell S. Boyd, USAF, BSC; AF Board Member - Lt Col Suellyn W. Novak, USAF, BSC; Army Board Member - Lt Col William Goodhue, MC, USA; Navy Board Member - CAPT Glenn N. Wagner, MC, MSC, USN. Tuesday evening social activity presented another first, a SAFMLS Comedy Theater with the theme being a "roast" specially tailored by the hotel's comedy theater personnel. This was a very special presentation enjoyed by all attendees. Wednesday featured workshops, career counseling, the Awards Luncheon, and the military breakout sessions. Awards included: (1) Best Paper - "PCR Technology in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory: Thermal Cycler Idiosyncrasies" by MAJ Robert S. Stewart, Jr., MS, USA; (2) Best Poster - "Time Dependent Stability of Methemoglobin Determinations Following Cyanide Antidote Administration" by LTC Jurgen D. von Bredow, MS, USA; (3) Outstanding Laboratory Manager - Lt Col (s) Margaret B. Jackson, USAF, BSC; (4) Outstanding Clinical Scientist - Maj William W. Ward, USAF, BSC; (5) Outstanding R&D Scientist - Maj Russell S. Boyd, USAF, BSC; (6) Outstanding Reserve/National Guard Laboratory Scientist - MAJ (P) JeanneMarie C. McNamara, MS, USAR; (7) Outstanding Enlisted Service Member - SSgt Simon D. Willett, USAF; and (8) Past President's

Award - Lt Col (s) Ted L. Hadfield, USAF, BSC. The Thursday Board Meeting was presided over by our VP, Lt Col Wians as our President; Lt Col Michael Caldwell had to return home due to an emergency. Publication of JMMLS NLT 1 Aug 93 was endorsed. The mid-year meeting was again proposed for the Ft Sam Houston Officers Club on 8 Sep 93. Courtesy copies of JMMLS were approved for the Service Surgeons General. LCDR Weaver was tasked to evaluate and monitor our vision/mission and report to the mid-year meeting. Maj Hadfield recommended buying four laptops. Maj's Hadfield and Seanger would prepare a proposal for our president. Maj Hadfield was tasked to gather an Ad Hoc Committee to recommend meeting sites for the next six years. A gift to the speakers was discussed and Lt Col Novak volunteered to secure a SAFMLS coin and suggested it be placed in Lucite and in wood for use as a paperweight. She was tasked to bring samples to the next meeting. She will make arrangements in her trip to Korea next month. Maj Hadfield proposed AFIP Short Courses be offered at SAMLS. He was to draft a plan for the mid-year meeting. Thursday debuted another first, a presentation by Col (Ret.) Doug Carter, USAFR, Director, Officer Placement Services of the Retired Officers Association, on "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career" in the civilian world. This was very well received by all members.

The 34th USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and **22nd Annual SAFMLS Meeting** was held at the Bally Hotel in Reno NV, 13-17 March 1994. The first Board meeting saw the Society goals approved but the objectives needed metrics and Lt Col Caldwell volunteered to have these by the mid-year meeting. The Board approved \$10,000 for laptop computers. Lt Col Novak was to get a camera-ready photo of the SAFMLS seal and contract for SAFMLS coins. "Current Contents" denied our indexing request for JMMLS, as we did not have enough articles per issue. We will be reviewed again in two years. The idea of a SAFMLS booth at other scientific society meetings was discussed, with LTCs Ciment and Hadfield presenting price quotes. The board tabled the issue. The treasury had \$82, 681.98 and we had 755 current members with 40 more applications approved at this meeting. JMMLS again showed a deficit. The board discussed: (a) limiting the number of pages; (b) decreasing issues per year; (c) use recycled paper. LTC Rosenberg was to have information on these and projected savings for the mid-year meeting. Planning Committee reports and the vendor's coordinator report of 46 booths sold were presented. Monday's Keynote Address was on "Health Care Reform in the Military" by COL Douglas A. Braendel, MC, USA and the Quality Management Address was by Ms. Kare Anderson on "Maximizing Brief, Frequent Interactions with Other Hospital Personnel." She also gave a workshop that afternoon. Monday also featured posters, paper presentations, the AF Consultant's Meeting and the Army MSC Meeting with BG Foust. Eastman Kodak hosted the evening social event. Tuesday had the CLIA/CLIP Symposium, career counseling, posters, exhibits, scientific papers, and the annual business meeting. The membership approved the change to the Constitution/By-Laws to elect the Secretary to a three year term and require her/him to maintain and manage the membership database. Changes also stipulated that Honorary Members be non-voting members and Emeritus Members retain the same voting status as they had before retirement. They also approved seven Members-At-Large (Board of Directors Members) each elected for two years. Six of the seven shall be Commissioned Officer Members, with not more than two members from

any one service. In addition, one term for each service will expire each year. The seventh Member-At-Large will be an Enlisted Member representing any service. Each Member-At-Large will have one vote. Ex-Officio members were now required to be the Surgeons General Military Consultants in Laboratory Science and Pathology. The newly elected officers of the Society were: President - CDR Michael A. Brophy, MSC, USN; President-Elect - LTC Peter R. Ciment, MSC, USA; VP- LTC Lawton A. Seal, MSC, USA; Secretary - Maj Russell S. Boyd, USAF, BSC; Army Board Member - COL Lynne I. Lakomia, MSC, USAR (she was the first Reserve Component member elected to this position - this was made possible by abolishing the reserve/Guard position and as these members are regular [full] members allowing them to sit for their service) ; Navy Board Member - CDR Robert A. Mann, MSC, USN; Air Force Board Member - SMSgt David C. Christy, USAF. The membership also amended a change to the By-Laws to clarify that ex-officio members are dues paying members. The membership also recommended that SAFMLS be the "lead agent" and draft a position paper to address the use of CPT codes for cost accounting and workload. This was tasked to Col Warnken and Maj Simon.

Wednesday, 16 March brought workshops in the morning, then the Awards Luncheon. The Best Poster was "Serum Bilirubin As a New Independent Risk Factor for Coronary Artery Disease," by Harvey A. Schwertner *et. al* I have no record of the Best Scientific Paper. The Outstanding Laboratory Manager was Lt Col Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, BSC. The Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Scientist was Maj Jeffrey L. Bryant, USAF, BSC (the first second time winner in this category, 1988 and 1994 - the only other two time winner was Capt Debra Niemeyer as the 1988 and 1990 Outstanding Laboratory Manager). The Outstanding Enlisted Service Member was SFC Carlos Castillo, Jr., USA (the first non Air Force member to win this award). The Outstanding Reserve/National Guard Laboratory Scientist was LTC Arthur Rosenberg, MS, USAR. The Outstanding R&D Scientist was Capt Robert L. Hagan, USAF, BSC. There was no Past President's Award given this year. The afternoon ended with the Military Breakouts. Thursday featured a 0830-1030 hours Reserve Legal Issues meeting and a 1030-1230 hours Board of Directors Meeting. The Mid-Year Board Meeting was held at the Ft Sam Houston Officers' Club on 26 Sep 1994. Highlights include we were awaiting delivery of three laptop computers, Lt Col Novak presented the SAFMLS coins imbedded in lucite and inset in a walnut block, the board approved the latter for presentation to speakers and the coins themselves to be sold for \$5 each to the membership. Lt Col Novak was tasked to oversee the publicity and the selling of these coins. She also asked if there was any interest in selling large wooden SAFMLS seals (the type work we used to get from the Philippines); she was tasked to pursue the efforts and to bring a sample, if a deal could be struck. Lt Col Novak and Col Caldwell are to bring ideas to the next meeting to recognize SAFMLS 25th anniversary and ideas to recognize retirees and "Plank Owners." The Board agreed to re-evaluate the nominating criteria for awards as the last three years had seen a grade creep to senior officers (Lt Cols). The Board also discussed changing the journal color to purple to reflect our Tri-Service makeup. This idea was to be discussed at the March meeting. Lt Col Hadfield, through CDR Brophy, suggested a possible site change for 1997 as the hotel rate in Reno would be double the per diem (gone are the days of very inexpensive

housing as we are too large an organization to go back to smaller hotels that are eager for our business) and Spokane WA was suggested and approved. The treasury had \$94,892.04 and membership was 816 active members plus the 17 new applicants approved for membership. The cost cutting ideas for the journal were reported on and using recycled paper was of little monetary benefit and reduced the professional appearance of the journal. The board voted to retain four issues a year so as to allow members more chances to become published. The publisher was asked for more ideas to stimulate vendor advertising thereby raising revenues.

The 35th USAF Clinical Laboratory Symposium and **23rd SAFMLS** Annual Meeting was held 28 February - 5 March 1995 in the San Antonio Convention Center. This was a Tuesday - Sunday meeting. Most attendees arrived on Wednesday for Workshops. Board members arrived Tuesday for the early Wednesday meeting prior to workshops. The treasury had about \$116,000 as bills were still coming in. We approved 43 new members and the society was again growing. Dr. Sue Bailey, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) brought the Keynote Address, the Motivational Keynote was delivered by Dr. Bob E. Couch and was entitled "Be Someone's Hero." BG Hoffman was to address us as were RADM Johnson, BG Claymore and MG(s) Carlton. We had 55 vendors producing revenue of \$104,350. The Board disapproved the idea of a SAFMLS booth at other scientific meetings as there was no clear benefit added and staffing the booth would be a problem. Most attendees at these other meetings would not be eligible for membership. Col Warnken was tasked to develop award criteria to be presented at the mid-year board meeting and be published in JMMLS. Lt Col Novak reported 830 coins available for sale to members and that the deal on a wooden plaque fell through but she'd try again. Society Officer nominations were: President-Elect - Col Reimund G. Warnken, USAF, BSC; VP - Maj Samuel J.P. (Phil) Livingstone, USAF, BSC; Treasurer - Capt George Wendell Jones, USAF, BSC; AF Board Member - Maj Paula Simon, USAF, BSC; Army Board Member - LTC Lawton Seal, MSC, USA; Navy Board Member - LCDR Terry Lane, MSC, USN. Wednesday evening featured a Western Hoe-Down as the President's Reception. Thursday had the opening ceremonies, exhibits, BG Hoffman's address, posters, and that evening a Johnson & Johnson Clinical Diagnostics Hospitality Night at La Villita.

Friday had workshops, papers, posters, exhibits, the Reserve Affairs Business Meeting and the annual Business Meeting. That evening there was a Total Forces Night Out with Mexican food and dancing at Nacho Mamas in Leon Springs and dancing at the Leon Springs Dance Hall. Saturday had workshops, the Awards Luncheon and Service Breakouts. Sunday was the Board of Directors Meeting. The society had a total of 32 workshops (a new record), only 12 scientific papers, and 22 posters. The post meeting Board of Directors meeting, held on 5 Mar 95, introduced the new officers. There were: (1) President - Maj Phil Livingstone, USAF, BSC; (2) President-Elect - Col Reimund Warnken, USAF, BSC; (3) Treasurer - Maj George "Wendell" Jones, USAF, BSC; and (4) Secretary - Maj Russell Boyd, USAF, BSC. This was the first time in the history of SAFMLS that the officers were all from one service. The Past President was CDR Michael Brophy, MSC, USN. The Board of Directors consisted of: CDR Robert Mann, MSC, USN; LCDR Terry Lane, MSC, USN; Lt Col

Robert Mathis, USAF, BSC; Maj Paula Simon, USAF, BSC; COL Lynne Lakomia, MSC, USAR, LTC Lawton Seal, MSC, USA; SMSgt David Christy, USAF and LTC Arthur Rosenberg, MSC, USAR. Ex-Officio Board Members were: Col Michael Dickerson, USAF, MC; CAPT Roy Koehn, MSC, USN; COL John O'Brien, MSC, USA, COL James Durham, MC, USA and Lt Col Ted Hadfield, USAF, BSC. The Society had 55 vendors in 94 booths (\$1250/booth) and gathered \$104,250 in booth rentals. There were 1060 attendees, 50 guests, and 223 exhibitors. Ad prices for *JMMLS* were set at \$200-600 per ad depending on its size. The position of historian being made an ex-officio board member was discussed with a vote to follow at the next meeting. It was proposed that the historian be appointed by the president to collect historical information and serve as the primary consultant on historical issues. The historian's length of term was to be based on the individual's willingness to serve and the quality of service. The president may terminate the appointment at the request of the incumbent or at his/her discretion. The historian announced plans to have photo displays to honor the 25th anniversary of SAFMLS at the 1996 meeting. The official history of the Society of Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Scientists will also be presented to the President. The mid-year board meeting was set for 22 Sep 95 at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. For new business, the board discussed calls for abstracts being made through the Services' Laboratory Consultant Newsletters, with all abstracts being ready for the 22 Sep Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting. Also, the call for abstracts was, as usual, to go out through *JMMLS*. Lt Col Novak reported revenue of \$750 on the sale of SAFMLS coins. The board also approved a separate mailing for pre-registration. Vendors are to be in the ballroom, not the parking garage as in previous years. There is a little less space there, so the society will limit the number of free booths given to scientific groups and programs. The board also reviewed/approved meeting sites: San Antonio, TX for 1998 and 2001; Washington DC for 1996, 1999, and 2002; and Spokane, WA for 1997. The latter was chosen as Reno is no longer amenable to hosting SAFMLS. The room rates can not be negotiated down to per diem rates. This will be the first time SAFMLS has been to Spokane. That meeting will be in the Convention Center, hotel rooms will be spread out in two or more hotels (as the society used to do in San Antonio in the 1980's).

At the Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting (held at the Holiday Inn in Bethesda, MD on 22 Sep 95), the board appointed a subcommittee of LTC Seal, COL Lakomia, Col Caldwell and Lt Col Novak to draft a statement of the historian's duties for the general membership approval at the Mar 96 meeting. Also to be considered were alternate meeting sites of San Diego, San Francisco, and Anaheim, CA. Col Warnken presented the SAFMLS award criteria, which the board approved with minor revisions. They were to be printed in the next issue of *JMMLS*. In new business, the board approved and forwarded to the membership a change to By-Law 12, which had the president appoint the chairman of the awards committee, as a non-voting member, to administrate the awards process and vote in the event of a tie. The awards committee was set to be the ex-officio members and was to select all award winners, except the Past President's Award for Excellence. The latter is selected by a committee composed of the former presidents and is chaired by the immediate Past President. The Society had a cash balance of \$99,875.18. Thirty new membership applications were voted on

and all were approved. *JMMLS* record for being late was discussed in detail and a subcommittee chaired by Col. (Dr.) Dickerson was to survey the membership and report to the next meeting. Nineteen ninety-six began with a bang when SAFMLS President, LTC Pete Ciment unexpectedly retired and resigned as president. Maj Samuel J.P. "Phil" Livingstone therefore moved up from Vice President.

The 8 hour workshop on Quality Assurance/Good Laboratory Practices, A Short Course began the **24th Meeting of SAFMLS** (3-7 Mar 96) at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC. The Board of Directors 24th Annual Meeting was called to order at 0700, 4 Mar 96, at the Monique Restaurant, of the Omni-Shoreham Hotel. The draft statement of duties of the historian was presented by COL Lakomia and revised. It was then ready to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting on Wed. 6 Mar 96. Lt Col Hadfield was still gathering information for alternate sites. Possible alternatives for San Antonio were Dallas, Austin, and Memphis. He was to present his findings at the September Mid-Year Meeting. By-Law 12 was approved and was to be presented to the general membership for a vote. Nominations for SAFMLS Officers and Board Members were finalized and were to be presented at the general business meeting. Lt Col Novak presented a bound copy of the official SAFMLS History to the President. She also displayed a wooden carving of the SAFMLS seal which was for sale at the registration desk. They are made in the Philippines and cost \$15 plus postage (\$3.20); the painted version is \$20 plus postage. The treasury had \$85,539.92. Membership, as of 26 Feb 96, was 835 active members, a 7% increase from last year. All 19 new applicants were approved for membership. The board decided to downsize the journal to newsletter format, as only 51 responses were received from the pre-registration package insert on the value of *JMMLS* in its current glossy, journal format. A total of 47 vendors bought booth space.

The 24th meeting had 22 workshops, 13 scientific papers, 7 short topics, and 12 posters. The Keynote address was given by MG Charles H. Roadman II and featured a preview of what the Air Force Medical Service would look like in the 21st century. The AFMS would be shaped by the great forces of change, which the general likened to geological tectonic plates. A follow-on speaker was Mr. Oren Harari who followed up on General Roadman's presentation by giving ways to thrive in the chaotic competitiveness of today's marketplace. He authored "Jumping the Curve: Innovation and Strategic Choice in an Age of Transition." The highlight of the meeting was, however, the presentation by SAFMLS' first President, Col "Nick" Nikolewski. In his inimitable way, he made the early years of struggle and strife to create SAFMLS (or "the Ding-Bat Society," a fond term shared by only plank-owners [founding members]) come alive. This presentation was videotaped and is in the historical archives. The President's Reception was held off-site at the Galleria at Lafayette Centre; on Monday 4 Mar 96 from 1900-2200 hours. The General Business Meeting on 6 Mar 96 approved the change to the Constitution and By Laws to add the historian as a non-voting member of the board. Elected to office were: (1) President-Elect - CDR Robert Mann, MSC, USN; (2) Vice President - Lt Col Ted Hadfield, USAF, BSC; (3) Secretary - Capt Jeffery Lamothe, USAF, BSC; (4) Enlisted Member - Chief James Hanson, MSC, USNR; (5) Members-At- Large - Maj Danny Seanger, USAF, BSC; LCDR Mary Culbertson, MSC,

USNR and COL Lynne Lakomia, MSC, USA. This was the first time in SAFMLS history; the Reserve Components had taken such an active role in the Society. The membership approved the change to By-Law 12, re the Awards Committee and process. The President announced the sale of the painted wooden SAFMLS seal for \$33 and the plain one for \$30. He also announced and displayed the bound copy of the Official History of SAFMLS. Lt Col Hadfield briefed the membership on the Spokane meeting. The Society had a total of 47 companies with 74 rented booths. There were 707 registrants, 143 vendors, and 110 visitors, for a total attendance of 960. Award Winners were: Best Paper (a Tie) Capt Lucia More, USAF, BSC, and Dr. Craig Litz "A Nested PCR Technique for the Detection of Parvovirus B19 in Fresh and Archival Bone Marrow Specimens and MAJ Richard Gomez, MC, USA and Luis De Las Casas, MD " Metastatic Breast Cancer Mimicking a Chondroid Neoplasm." Col Michael Dickerson, USAF, MC won the Past Presidents Award. Maj Michael Fitch, USAF, BSC won the Outstanding Clinical Scientist, while Capt Ron Rippito, USAF, BSC won the Outstanding Laboratory Manager Award. The 1996 Outstanding Research Scientist was Capt Philip Belgrader, USAF, BSC. The 1996 Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian was Capt Laurel Dinerstein, USAF, BSC and the Outstanding Enlisted Member was SMSgt Dennis Barnard, USAF. The final Board of Directors Meeting, held 8 Mar 96, approved the \$25 registration fee for non-members. A subcommittee was formed to determine SAFMLS newsletter format. It consisted of LTC Rosenberg, Maj Livingstone, LCDR Culbertson, LCDR Lane, COL Lakomia, and Maj Boyd. The 25th meeting was announced for Spokane WA 10-14 Mar 97 and the San Antonio meeting is during Fiesta Week 19-23 Apr 98. Hotels will not honor the government room rates. Other sites will be investigated, as well as if we can move dates with the hotels and convention center.

The 1996 Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting, slated for Spokane WA, was moved to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) on 27 Sep 96 from 1300-1600 hours. This change was necessitated by the airline's failure to stand by the rates quoted. The treasury held \$82,234.89. Col Dickerson expressed concern over the tax consequences of carrying that high a balance. Capt Jones stated he had checked with our Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and that he said, as we had no paid employees, it would not have an adverse effect. Capt Jones was directed to have the CPA put that in writing. Capt Lamothe, the Secretary, reported 864 members but only 30% had paid their 1996 dues. Seventeen new applicants were approved, 15 regular and two associates. LT Hilyard, Planning Committee, reported few abstracts and they were stilling seeking a keynote speaker. Maj Pimsler, also Planning Committee, was directed to send invitations to the three Service Surgeons General. A total of \$30,000 was allotted to the President's Reception and the theme was "Envisioning the Future." The theme idea was first started with the Society's early meetings. But it was dropped in the early 80's. In old business, LTC Rosenberg reported that a newsletter format would cost \$1,200 for about 800 copies. Postage added \$300. The Board decided on issues in May (annual meeting wrap-up), Aug (call for abstracts and awards), Dec (pre-registration and meeting agenda), and Mar (annual meeting program packet and final agenda). Col. Dickerson suggested putting JMMLS on the Internet and LCDR Culbertson was to research options. The Board decided all 1996 dues must be paid by 31 Dec 96. Members delinquent after that date would be dropped from the rolls. Dues

for 1997 were also due and if members had not paid them by 30 Jun 97, they too would be dropped from membership. Under new business, the Board reconfirmed non-members attending scientific sessions or workshops would pay a \$25 fee. Visitors could attend the exhibits via free passes. Award applications were due 15 Dec 96 and were open to civilians as well as military members.

Spring 1997 premiered the new Newsletter format titled "Proceedings of the Society of Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Scientists." "Proceedings" was the original title selected for the early Society's newsletter.

The **25th Annual Meeting** was held 10-14 Mar 97 at the Convention Center in Spokane, Washington. The Board of Directors Meeting was held Sunday, 9 Mar from 1800-2000 hours. The treasury had \$80,570.22. The Society had 877 members with 52 new applicants. Of these 43 were for regular membership and 9 were for associate membership; all were approved. Col. Warnken thanked LTC Rosenberg for his 5 years of service as editor and welcomed the new editors, Lt Col Simon and Maj Boriack. They proposed three newsletters a year (May, Aug, and Dec). The editors were to assume the duty of soliciting advertisements and seek a new publisher/printer. The Board approved with the following recommendations: (a) the banner be blue; (b) the Dec issue be published early in the month so Reservists/Guardsmen have time to get funding for the annual meeting; and (c) the paper be of high quality to allow for crisp photos. Under old business, the Board reviewed the CPA's opinion we are a tax exempt and are nowhere near the dollar limit to be considered "for profit" organization; the issue was closed. CDR Mann proposed a "Homepage" to have our official publication on the internet by Mar 98 and \$1,000 seed money was allocated. New business was approving the slate of new officers, members who submit photos to the historian include a log of photo contents, and a thank-you letter to be sent to the vendors. Workshops began Monday at 0730 and the President's Reception was Monday evening. Opening Ceremonies were 0730-0930. The business day concluded with the USAF Consultant's Meeting. The night began with the Johnson & Johnson Social where the food, beverages, and camaraderie were excellent.

Wednesday provided more short topics, exhibits, two-hour workshops, and Army Lab Manager Meetings. The Keynote address was a very inspiring (and sometimes emotional) presentation "Peering Into the Future" by RADM William Robert Rowley, MC, MSC, USN. The second Keynote Speaker was Roger Fritz; his topic was "Sustaining an Aspiring Mindset." The Society had record 41 workshops, 22 short topics, 12 clinical posters, and 19 research posters. Award winners were: 1997 Outstanding Laboratory Manager - LT Col Paul Barnicott, USAF, BSC; 1997 Outstanding Clinical Scientist - LT Ronald Bajet, MSC, USN; 1997 Outstanding Research Scientist - Maj Debra Niemeyer (a second time winner, and only the second to repeat [Capt Jeff Bryant was the first, but he was in the clinical scientists arena]); 1997 Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian - MAJ William Gower, MSC, USAR; 1997 Outstanding Enlisted Member - SSgt Randall Harris, USAF; and Past President's Award - COL Thomas Sprague, MC, USA. The General Business Meeting saw the election of LTC Lawton Seal, MSC, USA as President-Elect; VP - Maj Russell Boyd, USAF, BSC; Members-at Large - Maj Debra

Niemeyer, USAF, BSC, MAJ Christian Whelen, MSC, USA, LT Edward Hilyard, MSC, USN. Col. Warnken briefed that the vendors were highly pleased with the turnout. He also thanked LTC Rosenberg for his 5 years as editor of *JMMLS*, introduced the two new editors, Lt Col Simon and Maj Boriack, and announced the SAFMLS homepage. Lt Col Hadfield briefed on the 1998 San Antonio meeting and Col. Novak reminded folks to make room reservations early as that was Fiesta Week. Col. Warnken announced SAFMLS coin sales and challenged all to have theirs on them or they bought the beverages at a coin challenge. Coin sales were brisk. The Post-meeting Board of Directors meeting was held 14 Mar 97. Lt Col Hadfield estimated meeting costs at \$50,000 which was very economical. There were 536 attendees (a drop) and 180 vendors present. Due to the 1998 San Antonio conflict with Fiesta Week and room costs being about twice the Spokane costs, a motion as made to return to Spokane. Lt Col Hadfield reminded all that we would probably forfeit the convention center deposit. He was directed to pursue changing meeting sites from San Antonio to Spokane. The mid-year board meeting was set for 19 Sep 97 in Washington DC. There was no old business. For new business, the issue of sending a copy of the newsletter to the VA was again raised and the Board approved. E-mail correspondence in Jun 1997 revealed that the secretary's laptop was broken beyond economical repair. The incumbent (Capt Lamothe) estimated \$1,500 for a replacement. The President (CDR Mann) authorized \$2,000 for a replacement.

The Mid-Year Board Meeting was held 19 Sep 97 at the Seven Oaks Resort, San Antonio TX from 0800-1200 hours. The treasury boasted \$105,934.76. The dues revenues were up, the "Society Scope" was noticeably cheaper to produce than *JMMLS*. The Society membership has dropped to 654 with 91% being current on dues. A total of 19 new applicants (14 regular and 5 associate) were approved. The conflict with Fiesta Week in San Antonio has been resolved and the meeting is now 7-11 April 1998. The Planning Committee was asked to re-look the schedule so that workshops end before 1730 on the 11th as the 12th is Easter Sunday. There was no firm commitment from RADM Phillips and BG ® Chuck Yeager as Keynote Speakers. A professional photographer was approved and \$500 set aside. The photographer will work closely with the Historian. Dues notices for 1998 were sent in Oct 97, with dues being payable 31 Dec 97. Complementary copies of the "Society Scope" were sent to 169 VA sites and 52 vendors. The Newsletter started using a contractor to scrub the membership list forwarded by the secretary through the NCOA to update old addresses. The SAFMLS webpage is available at www.safmls.org and on-line registration will be available for the Apr 1998 meeting. Maj Boriack made a motion for members to serve as reporters for the "member's perspective" and the Board approved. Lt Col Hadfield briefed that the 1999 meeting is set for Washington DC and the 2000 meeting is set for Los Angeles CA. Lt Col Simon asked the Board review the Society's Guiding Principles to ensure they are current. A subcommittee of COL Lakomia, Lt Col Simon, Maj Lamothe, and LT Hilyard was appointed. A motion was made for SAFMLS to fund Board Members to free up TDY funds for other members; due to financial reasons, it was rejected. Col. Warnken showed a walnut business card holder embossed with the SAFMLS coin. There will be 25 for sale at the San Antonio meeting.

26th – 30th Annual SAFMLS meetings. The missing years, we are currently trying to recapture information concerning these meeting in order to reconstruct the history of these meetings.

Mid year 2002 Board of Directors meeting was held in Rockville, MD on 18 Oct 2002. 12 members were present and one member dialed in for the meeting. The Treasurer reported that the society's cash balance as of 18 Oct 2002 was \$167,340.66. The secretary's report reflected a membership of 606 member, and 11 new applicants. The board approved all 11 applicants. Several other old business issues were addressed including use of professional meeting planners (on-going), on-line registration (not mandatory but should be better publicized), and use of electronic payments for vendors (to be determined). New business included consideration for hiring a professional photographer (open), receipt of New SAFMLS coins, and the resurrection of the boards old nemesis, request for new computers (open).

The **31st Annual SAFMLS** meeting commenced 23 Mar 2003 and concluded on the 27 of Mar 2003 in Reno Nevada. The meeting was held in the Silver Legacy Resort and was deemed an outstanding venue for future meetings by those in attendance. The week was extremely busy for the board members, who conducted the pre-conference and post conference Board of Director Meeting. Unfortunately many of the board members were unable to attend due to operational requirements. Significant items addressed included future meeting locations (2004 – Boston, 2005 - Jacksonville, FL and a return to Reno in 2006), finding a replacement for Lt Col Bailey Mapp as the editor of the Scope, and purchasing of new laptops for the secretary and treasurer (approved). Other issues open from the mid year Board of Directors meetings were tabled pending input from the action officers. Of great importance and relief to Lt Col Mapp, a volunteer stepped forward to take the helm as editor of the Scope. MAJ Kevin McNabb graciously volunteered to take over the duties as editor of the scope. Lt Col Mapp should be commended for all his hard work and improvements made to the scope during his tenure as editor. Distinguished speakers for this years opening ceremonies were COL Neal Burnette, Dr. Carol Linden, and Dr. John Frazier. At the conclusion of the General Business Meeting the Society was found to be robust and healthy. The Societies Cash balance on 18 Mar 03 was \$217,363.58, with 637 members not including 42 new applicants. New Board members selected: LTC Marilyn Brew, President-Elect; Maj Jean Ruddell, Vice President; MAJ Calero, Maj Julie Zwies and LCDR Alphonso as Army, Air Force, and Navy Members at large. The week was comprised of various intellectual, athletic and leisure activities. 29 short topics were presented by various members of the Society and/or DoD employees. A total of 52 posters were submitted for our viewing pleasure, 33 were considered research poster and the remaining 18 posters were clinical in nature. A large turnout was received at the annual awards breakfast where various members were honored for their body of work. The SAFMLS 2003 awardees were CPT Hassan Zahwa - "Outstanding Clinical Scientist", TSgt Camille Blackmon "Outstanding Clinical Researcher", SSgt Angel Allison "Outstanding Enlisted Service Member, Lt Col Bailey Mapp "Outstanding Laboratory Manager", LCDR Ronald Bajet "Best Clinical Poster", Lt Col David Kulesh "Best Research Poster, and Lt Aaron Harding "Outstanding Junior Officer. COL Robert

Martig was awarded the "Distinguished Service Award" for his years of distinguished service to the Society. The inevitable conclusion of the meeting saw Lt Col Dale Ferguson's step down as President and turn the gavel over to incoming President CDR Michael Finch. CDR Finch's theme for the coming year was "One Government, One Laboratory."

CDR Finch's first milestone as President was conducting the Mid Year 2003 Board of Directors Meeting, held at the Sheraton Hotel, Boston Massachusetts. Unlike previous years the BOD meeting was held at the upcoming conference site. There were several items of significance discussed and resolved at the Mid Year Meeting. The use of electronic payments for dues was discussed and being pursued, this option is to be functional for the 2004 meeting. A previous tabled issue concerning hiring a professional photographer for the SAFMLS meeting was revisited and disapproved. The question concerning the status of board vacancies if the member runs for another office was bantered about and the precedent set was that the President has the ability to appoint a member to fill any vacant office, and no change to the by-laws is require. Under new business, a keynote speaker (Dr. Keffner) was identified and approved by the BOD for the up coming meeting. LTC Kevin McNabb came on board as the new editor of the scope and was busy preparing the pre-meeting issue of the scope. On a sadder note it was brought to the attention of the board that our historian COL Novak would be soon retiring and needed to be replaced as historian.

After a chilly start to the **32nd Annual SAFMLS** meeting, being held in Boston Massachusetts from 23 to 26 February 2004, members rapidly warmed up to hospitable environment of the Sheraton hotel and historic venues offered by the host city. Dr. Joseph A. Keffer graced us with his presence as the Keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies. The general session featured Dr. Alan R. Zimmerman who provided inspiration, levity, and an opportunity to for all members to participate in his presentation. The meeting featured 29 Workshops, 29 Short Topic Presentations, 21 Research and 25 Clinical Posters. As always the vendors tantalized us with new products to dream about.

The Annual Awards once again highlighted the professionalism and ingenuity of our members and their quest for excellence. Navy Lt Johnathan Ware was selected as the "Outstanding Clinical Scientist," and not to be out done another Navy member, CDR Christine L Congdon, was selected as the "Outstanding Laboratory Manger." The Navy's run on the awards was soon ended when Air Force Capt Maria Kohler was selected as the recipient of the "Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist" award. Air Force members followed up with an additional two awards when TSgt Aaron Guilfoil was selected as the "Outstanding Enlisted Service Member," and the team of Col Stephen Golden, Maj Ileana Hauge, Capt Michelle Straka, and SSgt Steve Young, poster presentation was selected as the "Best Clinical Poster." Not to be denied representation among this elite group of awardees' the Army team of MAJ Aziz Qabar, Marian Nelson, Juanita Guzman, and Charlene Corun was award the "Best Research Poster." *"It is no longer enough to be smart -- all the technological tools in the world add meaning and value only if they enhance our core values, the deepest part of our*

heart. Acquiring knowledge is no guarantee of practical, useful application. Wisdom implies a mature integration of appropriate knowledge, a seasoned ability to filter the inessential from the essential.” – Doc Childre and Deborah Rozman. This quote accurately portrays the recipient of the “Distinguished Service Award” Lt Col Debra Niemeyer who has spent numerous years contributing to the success and well-being of the Society. For further information about the recipients’ accomplishment refer to the Scope, summer 2004, volume 7, number 2, issue.

State of the Society – cash balance as of 18 Mar 2004 (\$217, 363.58), 689 members with 357 delinquent in their dues. Future meeting sites and dates; the 33rd Annual Meeting will be held 13-17 Mar 2005, in Jacksonville, FL, to be followed in 2006 at Reno, Nevada. Newly elected BOD members are: President-Elect Maj Norm Fox, Vice President CDR Cindy Wilkerson, and Army, Air Force and Navy representatives MAJ Michael Miller, Maj Lucia More, and LCDR Mark Crowell. CDR Michael Finch and his team put on an exceptional meeting and should be congratulated for its success. Upon conclusion of the meeting CDR Finch turned the reins of the society over to LTC Marilyn Brew. LTC Brew unfortunately had to immediately make several decisions concerning board membership due to retirements, and board members being elected to new positions. LTC Brew appointed CDR Congdon as the new Secretary, LTC Deuter as the new Historian and CDR Finch as the new Webmaster. It should be noted that we have lost a staunch and colorful member of the board and society to retirement, after a very successful career COL Suellyn Novak has decided to hang up her spurs. COL Novak’s absence from the board and annual meetings will be clearly evident but what will not be as evident is the work that she did for the society behind the scenes. Even in retirement, COL Novak graciously volunteered to serve as the historian; however it was felt that it would be more appropriate to have the position filled by an active duty service member. Upon the conclusion of the annual meeting the theme chosen for the New Year by LTC Brew was unveiled “Discover, Develop, Deliver – 3D – Bringing Things to Light.”

LTC Brew followed the lead of CDR Finch and held her mid year Board of Directors meeting at the conference site. Getting to the mid year meeting was touch and go for a few due to inclement weather, which unfortunately would rise it ugly head a couple of years later. CDR Wilkerson and her Planning Committee were well on their way ensuring this year annual meeting would be successful.

33rd Annual SAFMLS meeting was held 13 – 17 March 2005 in Jacksonville, Florida, which was a far cry from the frozen northland of Massachusetts..... Temperatures were in the high sixties, low seventies and wet throughout much of the week. You must forgive me if the information concerning the 33rd annual meeting is not 100% accurate, as I am compiling the information from various sources. I unfortunately was unable to attend due to a commitment in Baghdad, Iraq. However in Baghdad, the average high temperature in March is 73°F, with an average of 1.1 inches of rain (it’s the rainy season) so weather wise it was about the same. The meeting was attended by 458 individuals and featured 31 Workshops, 51 posters presentations with 22 classified as research and 29 as clinical. The Short Topic Presentations were broken

down differently this year; there were 25 topics broken down into 7 different tracks ranging from career development to information management. In a reversal from the previous year's award winners, Air Force members took the first three awards and ended up with a total of five awards. Capt Jeanette M. Watterson was named "Outstanding Clinical Scientist," Maj Nathan H. Johnson was selected as the "Outstanding Laboratory Manager", and the "Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist" was awarded to Maj Richard Schoske. The "Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian" went to Capt Claude C. Grisgsby, and to round out the Air Force winners Capt Jeannette Watterson was selected for "Best Clinical Poster." Not to be left out in the cold the "Outstanding Enlisted Service Member" selected was the Navy's HMC Domingo Saldana and the "Best Research Poster" went to the Army's MAJ Steven D. Mahlen. Maj Robert Zajac was honored with the "Distinguished Service Award" for his years of service to the society.

This year's meeting had some new firsts including a members' dinner and the short topic tracks. The societies cash balance as of 05 Mar 05, was \$255,514.35 or roughly 35K more than last years balance. The society's membership increased over the past year by 155 members to a grand total of 844 members and the dues delinquency rate was reduced from 357 to 161. Future meeting sites identified were Boston in 2007 and New Orleans in 2008. New officers elected this year were CDR Cindy Wilkerson as President-Elect, LTC Elaine Perry as Vice President, CDR Christine Congdon who was the appointed last year to fill in as Secretary was elected by the society to serve as the Secretary. LCDR Brain Ivey was elected to fill the Treasurer position formerly filled by CDR Ciorlito. Issues closed by the BOD at the pre and post conference meeting were the approval of the new logo and 37 new applicants. Several board members holding the positions of Webmaster, Historian, and Scope editor were re-appointed and Lt Col Bailey Mapp was appointed as Exhibit Coordinator. At the conclusion of the annual meeting MAJ Norm Fox took the helm as the incoming President.

The Board of Directors Mid-year meeting was held 19 September 2005 at the Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno Nevada, site of the next SAFMLS meeting. In review, the 2005 meeting was not as profitable to the society as past meetings. Overall the society had to pay out \$6,375.08 of its funds leaving a balance of \$155,531.55. In old business, the society has chosen to stay with Pay Pal as the means of electronic payment. Several other items remained open and will be addressed in the 2006 Pre-SAFMLS BOD meeting. Under new business the length of the annual meeting was discussed and it was determined that expense required to lengthen the meeting was cost prohibitive, the rest of this issues can be view on the 2005 BOD Mid-Year Meeting minutes.

34th Annual SAFMLS meeting was held 26th – 31st March 2006 at the Silver Legacy Resort and Hotel, Reno Nevada. The weather during the conference was perfect with temperatures in the 50's during the day with clear skies. The notable exception being the evening of the fun run when it did rain for a short period of time but of course we have come to expect nothing less during the fun run. While I cannot say

this was the best attended meeting I can speculate that it would be in the top five. A total of 551 individuals registered during the course of the meeting, 428 people pre-registered and 123 registered on site (based upon available data, less duplicates). Registration stats: 551 people registered; 289 Officers, 209 enlisted, and 53 others (Civilians, Retiree's, etc.). Break down by service or affiliation; 337 Air Force, 172 Army, and 42 Navy personnel. There were 81 vendors in attendance and their displays were well attended by SAFMLS members. The guest speaker during opening ceremonies was Brigadier General Steve Reeves of the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense speaking about technology and its application on the battlefield to leverage our capabilities to the Joint Medical Warfighters. His talk presented a different perspective our roles and missions and how they could possibly change in the near future based new technologies. A total of 34 workshops, 41 Clinical Posters and 24 Research Posters were presented during the course of the conference. Back by popular demand was the short topic presentations. Eight (8) short topic areas of concentration were available, each with anywhere from 3 to 4 different presentations grouped by topics. A total of 108 contact hours for the attendees if they were able to attend all the workshops and short topics, unfortunately that wasn't the case and most were limited to between 12 – 18 contact hours. The business meeting was called to order at 0940 on the 27 of Mar, 2006. Of significance was the Secretary's report annotating a membership of 714 but only of which 374 were current with their dues. Delinquent members who fail to pay their dues by 30 Jun 2006 will be inactivated in accordance with the Society by-laws. The treasurer's and annual audit report can be found on line at <http://www.safmls.org/>. The Society By-Laws were reviewed and approved by the members. Newly elected members this year include: President Elect - LTC Kevin McNabb, Vice President – Lt Col Brian Casleton, Army, Air Force, Navy and Enlisted Member's at Large – MAJ Paul Mann, Maj Richard Schoske, LT Aaron Harding, and SFC Nathan Bonds.

Sponsorship by various vendors makes it possible for our organization to conduct our annual meetings in the fashion we have become accustomed too; they sponsor everything from the breaks to the SAFMLS Awards and should be duly recognized for their contributions. In keeping with traditions, the Annual SAFMLS Awards were voted on and the winners are..... "Outstanding Clinical Scientist" – CPT William Smith, "Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist" – Maj Ilena Hauge, "Outstanding Laboratory Manager" – Lt Col John R. Hickman, "Outstanding Enlisted Service Member" – Msgt Ellen Ebel, and "Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian" – LTC Roseanne M. Dwyer. "Best Clinical Poster" was awarded to HA Schwertner, HA, et al., and the research poster of CPT Jeanne Geyer et al., was selected as "Best Research Poster." CPT Grace Toro was selected by the Alumni Association of the Blood Bank Fellowship as the recipient of their "Jr. Officer of the Year." The Past Presidents award commonly know as the Distinguished Service Award for Excellence was awarded to the President Elect CDR Wilkerson for her years of selfless service to the organization. The post SAFMLS BOD meeting was conducted to address a few loose ends. LTC Perry was thanked by the board for filling in during MAJ Fox's absence. First order of business was clear up administrative details to include review of previous minutes, treasurer's report, secretary's report and new applicant review. A new editor of the scope will be

selected by President Elect, until then LTC McNabb will still serve as the editor. LTC McNabb volunteered to assist the new editor until they become comfortable with the process. New Business – CDR Wilkerson reappointed CDR Finch as Webmaster, LTC Deuter as Historian, LTC McNabb as Scope Editor and Lt Col Mapp as Exhibits/Site Coordinator. The mid year BOD meeting has been tentatively set for September 27 – 28 in Boston Massachusetts.

22 Sept 2007, Sheraton Hotel Boston Massachusetts was the site for the Board of Directors Mid-year meeting. With the ongoing conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan member participation was limited to only 11 of 23 board members. Rather than reciting the financial status of the society, I refer interested individuals to the 22 Sep 2007 Secretary Report. At the mid-year meeting members prepared for the upcoming conference which is to be held 26 February – 2 March. As a spectator to the process I am amazed at the amount of work that goes into the planning of this scope. Planning meetings are conducted months in advance of the meeting, via teleconferences and videoconferences, often 2 or three times a month. The Board Members of the Society often receive kudos and accolades for a well run conference and it is deserved but what is often over looked is the gratitude of the Society for those unnamed and unrecognized individuals who volunteer their time and services on the various committees. For those who have and for those that will service on planning committees, the Society thanks you for selfless service.

The **35th Annual SAFMLS (25 Feb – 2 Mar 2007)** meeting was almost the meeting that wasn't. Expectations of the annual meeting were running higher than usual with literally a star studded cast slated as speakers for the opening ceremonies. Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, U.S. Navy Surgeon General, Air Force Brigadier General Theresa M. Casey, Assistant Surgeon General for Modernization and Colonel Noel Webster, Assistant Corps Chief, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Army were all going to participate in the Opening Ceremonies, but Mother Nature intervened and drastically changed the plans. Winters in Boston are always a dicey proposition and this year more so than most. On Sunday the 24th, a winter storm came rolling down the east coast literally shutting down all airline travel from Connecticut to the Virginia's and impacting all other in bound travel. Due to the severe weather VADM Arthur was unable to attend and BGen Casey arrival was questionable as well as many of our member's arrival and attendance. Weather during the week was cold with wind gusts up to forty miles an hour. Snow showers through out the week were the norm, with the sole exception being the day of the fun run. For the last three years the day of the fun run was typically wet and miserable and after the start of this week they expected the same but Mother Nature had pity on the runners and provided a clear and brisk day for the run.

Due to the storm attendance at this years' meeting was slightly less than what we have grown accustomed with a total of 422 individuals registered during the course of the meeting. Registration stats: 219 Officers, 151 enlisted, and 52 others (Civilians, Retiree's, etc.). Break down by service or affiliation; 214 Air Force, 152 Army, 12 Navy personnel, and 30 others. There were 85 vendors in attendance and their displays were

exceptionally well attended by SAFMLS members. The guest speakers during opening ceremonies were Air Force Brigadier General Theresa M. Casey, Assistant Surgeon General for Modernization and Colonel Noel Webster, Assistant Corps Chief, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Army. Both speakers provided updates about the road ahead for their specific services and their relevance and tie in with the other services and the DoD efforts.

The agenda for this year's conference included: 27 two-hour and 10 four-hour workshops, 10 short topic presentation groups divided into four to six presentations per group, 28 Clinical and 21 Research Poster presentations. The business meeting was called to order at 1005, 26 February 2007 by Society President CDR Cindy Wilkerson. New business included proposal to change the name of the Outstanding Clinical Scientist and Outstanding Laboratory Manager to Tri-Service Junior and Tri-Service Senior Laboratory Officer. Current membership stands at 769 members; 590 Officers, 147 enlisted members and 32 civilians. Newly elected members this year include: President Elect – Lt Col Brian Casleton, USAF, Vice President – CDR Larry Ciolorito, USN, Service member's at large for the Army, Air Force, Navy and Enlisted are CPT Gerald Kellar, Capt Denise Lennon, LT Debra Baker and MSgt David Beacham.

Vendors continue to make this conference successful sponsoring breaks, supporting the organization and ensuring the SAFMLS Awards program remains viable. SAFMLS awards, their sponsor, and recipients are as follows: "Outstanding Clinical Scientist" sponsored by Arlington Scientific – Capt Donna Fox, "Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist" sponsored by Immunoconcepts – LTC Michael P. Kozar, "Outstanding Laboratory Manager" sponsored by Dade Behring – LTC Danny R. Deuter, "Outstanding Enlisted Service Member" sponsored by Sysmex – SMSgt Jonathan R. Shane, and "Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian" sponsored by Trinity Biotech – COL Lawrence R. Suddendorf. "Best Clinical Poster" was sponsored by Quest Diagnostics - 1Lt Anthony B. Polito, and "Best Research Poster" was sponsored by Beckman Coulter – Maj Eric V. Olsen. The Alumni Association of the Blood Bank Fellowship selected LT Ronnie Hill as the recipient of their "Jr. Officer of the Year" for his work in Afghanistan. The Past Presidents award, commonly known as the Distinguished Service Award for Excellence was awarded to CAPT Michael L. Finch. The post SAFMLS BOD meeting covered down on outstanding administrative issues. New business included a call for the redesign of the SAFMLS coin. The BOD approved a design competition and SAFMLS members were given until 15 Jul to submit their entries to the consultants. In coming President LTC Kevin McNabb reappointed current serving members to their respective positions as Webmaster, Historian, Scope Editor, and Exhibits/Site Coordinator. The mid year BOD meeting has been set for September 27 – 28 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

27 September 2007 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting. 12 of the 22 BOD members were able to attend the mid year meeting. Treasurer's report was submitted and approved. The Secretary's report continued to identify problems with current way in which dues are collected. Of 779 members approximately 30% of the members have not paid their dues. A motion was made and approved to drop from the rolls any

members who were not current on their dues by 1 Feb 2008. Planning Committee assignments were assigned and those can be found on the 27 Sep 2007 Mid-Year BOD minutes. A sample of the redesigned SAFMLS coin was presented and approved by the BOD.

36th Annual SAFMLS (10 – 15 Feb) meeting was held at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina portions of New Orleans were still not recovered however the French Quarter and Warehouse/Art District seemed to be well recovered. With our conference following the upon the heels of the Mardi Gras celebration if anything appeared in disarray, we would not have know if it was due to Katrina or Mardi Gras. During the week, weather in NO ranged from lows in the upper 40's and to highs in the 70's, with only traces of precipitation.

Ms Donna Boston was our Keynote Speaker discussing the DoD/Joint environment specifically as it related to JBAIDS, development, implementation and utilization. One of the key points of her address was the inevitability of the need for joint programs whether they are systems, services or task related. The business meeting immediately followed the keynote address and of note was the election of new board members: President-Elect (CDR Christine Howe), Vice President (LTC Michael Lopatka), Secretary (LT Adrian Gaskin), and members at large – Army (MAJ James Lee), Navy (LT Leslie Councilor) and Air Force (Capt Kathryn Shaw). Changes in the By-Laws included, changing the date dues would be payable to 31 Dec of the prior year, and appointment of a Chair, Continuing Education to the BOD as a non-voting member.

As it has now become the norm we had a plethora of workshops (35), short topic (10) and poster presentations (74) to choose from during the course of the conference. Vendor support continues to be a corner stone of our society's ability to hold the annual conference, their support of the society, awards sponsorship and over-all commitment is commendable. The following awards were presented at the annual breakfast: "Outstanding Enlisted Service Member" sponsored by Global Focus Marketing & Distribution – SSG Gigi Walker, "Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist" sponsored by Idaho Technology Inc., - MAJ Jeanne Geyer, "Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian" sponsored by Quest Diagnostics – LTC Robin Wein, "Tri-Service Junior Laboratory Officer" sponsored by Arlington Scientific, Inc., - Capt Paul Eden, "Tri-Service Senior Laboratory Officer" sponsored by Global Focus Marketing & Distribution – Maj Imelda Catalasan. "Best Clinical Poster" sponsored by Sysmex – CPT Kelly Wilhelms, and "Best Research Poster" sponsored by Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics – CPT Darci Smith. Capt Kathryn Shaw was the recipient of the Alumni Association of the Blood Bank Fellowship's "Jr. Officer of the Year" award for her work in Iraq. The Past Presidents award, referred to as the Distinguished Service Award for Excellence was awarded to a well deserving Lt Col Bailey Mapp. The next couple years will seem a little strange on the board as we will not see Lt Col Mapp in his usual roles, which is unfortunate for the BOD.

As this was a new venue to the society our expectations were guarded to say the least. All in all, the conference appeared to be hit with the members and the consensus

was to return to this location. Those members that choose to sample the nightlife in New Orleans only had only great things to say about the dining choices, music, dancing, and ambiance of the city.

The mid year BOD meeting was held at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino on 16 Sep 2008. The first thing the BODs noticed upon arrival at the Silver Legacy was their new policy concerning smoking in the facility. While it was not a no-smoking ban, it did significantly reduce the smoking odor throughout the facility. The treasury report was reviewed and the society was found solvent. A couple of changes were voted on that will impact the membership: the first change concerns annual dues, they were changed from \$15 dollars a year to \$20 and the second change was to institute a \$20 registration fee. The registration fee was instituted to provide the society the fiscal leverage to address issues that inevitably arise when hosting an event of this magnitude. Planning for the upcoming conference was addressed, committee's identified and responsibilities delegated, further information can be found at the SAFMLS website and in the secretary's minutes.

Reno in the spring is a lovely venue, the proximity to skiing and hiking seems to attract a larger turnout for our annual meeting. Temperatures ranged from the low 30's to high 60's with a modicum of snow and rain. SAFMLS returned to Reno for its **37th Annual meeting (22-26 March)**, held at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino. This meeting was much anticipated as it brings close to a chapter in our recent history. We have held a meeting at the Silver Legacy Resort Casio, once every three years, for the past decade and that cycle came to a close with the end of this year's meeting. While some of our members are saddened by this event, others see it as an opportunity to venture to new venues. Time will be the litmus test to see if the society will be returning to Reno for future annual meeting, I can only hope that future laboratorians are provided the chance to enjoy this annual meeting in "The Biggest Little City in the World."

According to our records this was the best attended meeting we have had, with 783 attendees. There were 468 individuals pre-registered, an additional 200 registering on site and 115 vendors supporting the exhibits' hall. Our members were treated with a guest appearance of Coach Dale Brown as our Keynote Speaker. His topic was "How to find Success and Happiness". In our current posture with all the demands on our soldiers and time, Coach Brown's talk brought relevance to those things which we should strive for in our lives and military career. Educational opportunities during this meeting were abundant with 35 Workshops, 9 short topic sessions with 3 to 4 subjects per session, numerous service specific breakout sessions, and the always informative poster presentations. A total of 135 hours of CME were available to those members who wanted to a take advantage of this benefit. At the annual awards breakfast the following individuals were revealed as this year's award winners. Alumni Association of the Blood Bank Fellowship's "**Jr. Officer of the Year**" honor was awarded to CPT Warren Brown. The "**Outstanding Enlisted Service Member**" sponsored by Mack Information Systems, Inc., went to MSgt Malynda Emerson. Sponsoring the "**Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist**" was ImmunoConcepts, Ltd., and their award went to LTC Lanette Hamilton. "**Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian**"

sponsored by Global Focus Marketing and Distribution, Ltd., went to COL Roman Golash. Roche Diagnostics sponsored both the Junior and Senior Laboratory Officer Awards, the “**Tri-Service Junior Laboratory Officer**” went to Capt Jerome Vinluan, and “**Tri-Service Senior Laboratory Officer**” was presented to CDR Cynthia Wilkerson. OPTI Medical Systems “**Best Clinical Poster**” went to CPT Edward Keen, III, and the “**Best Research Poster**” sponsored by Alfa Wassermann Diagnostic Technologies; LLC was presented to CPT William Keener. Quest Diagnostics, a long time supporter of the society sponsored the “**The Past Presidents Award**” which deservingly went to CAPT Larry Ciorlito for all his behind the scenes work on behalf of the society.

Detailed minutes concerning the Pre, Post and Business meeting can be found on the website. Summary of key points of the meetings: New Officers of the Society; President Elect – LTC Helen Viscount, Vice President – Lt Col Norman Fox, Army Member at Large (MAL) – CPT Anne Sterling, Navy MAL – LCDR Sharon West, Air Force MAL – Capt Donna Fox, and Enlisted MAL – MSgt Malynda Emerson. The Treasurer’s report concluded that the society remains solvent and that core members of the society, who are CONUS, will be funded to attend the midyear business meeting. Total active membership at the conclusion of the meeting was 566.

The mid-year BOD meeting was held at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, CA on the 29 of Sep, 2009. As this site is a new venue the BOD was excited to see what the site offered. The resort is located about 10 miles from the airport on 40 acres in the heart of San Diego, in the Mission Valley District. The site has all the amenities to



Town and Country Resort

include several restaurants, over 55 meeting rooms, and convention center. Cab fare from the airport runs approximately thirty dollars. The resort is located next to the San Diego Trolley route so visitors have easy access to venues throughout the city. The BOD approved a couple of motions, to include a “Writer’s” award for articles submitted to the Scope and they also approved an “Enlisted Members” category for poster submissions. For the past couple of years the BOD has struggled with the tracking and payment of dues, in addition to what benefits are being provided to active members. While active participation in the society has its own rewards the BOD has voted to limit attendance to the Presidents Reception to those members who are in good standing as of 1 Jan of the current year to encourage prompt and timely payment of dues. With the anticipated deployment of the current Vice President (LtCol Fox) and the retirement of the Enlisted Member-at-Large (MSgt Emerson) the BOD approved the nomination of

LtCol More as the new Vice President and SGM Lavender as the Enlisted Member-at-Large. LtCol More laid out her plans for the upcoming meeting and identified the committee's and their requisite responsibilities. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the secretaries' page on the SAFMLS website.

SAFMLS Presidents

- 1971 – Col Claude Leeper, USAF, MC
- 1972 – Col William Price, USAF, BSC
- 1973 – COL Robert Morrison, MC, USA
- 1974 – Col Robert Nikolewski, USAF, BSC
- 1975 – Col William Cowan, USAF, MC
- 1976 – Maj Chandler Cheek, USAF, BSC
- 1977 – COL Frank Kiel, MC, USA
- 1978 – Col Gerald Black, USAF BSC
- 1979 – Col James Jennings, USAF, MC
- 1980 – CDR Dean Schubert, MSC, USN
- 1982 – Col Raymond Bennett, USAF, MC
- 1983 – LTC Robert Usry, MSC, USA
- 1984 – CDR Kenneth Sims, MC, MSC, USN
- 1985 – Lt Col Richard Krieg, USAF, BSC
- 1986 – COL William York, MC, USA
- 1987 – LCDR Donald Smith, MSC, USN
- 1988 – Maj Suellyn Novak, USAF, BSC
- 1989 – LTC Gerald Jacobs, MSC, USA / MAJ Michael Romo, MSC, USA
- 1990 – CDR William Wurzel, MC, MSC, USN
- 1991 – Col Michael Dickerson, USAF, MC
- 1993 – COL Thomas Sprague, MC, USA
- 1994 – Col Michael Caldwell, USAF, BSC
- 1995 – CDR Michael Brophy, MSC, USN
- 1996 – LTC Peter Ciment, MSC, USA (Resigned)
- 1996 – Maj Samuel J.P. "Phil" Livingstone, USAF, BSC
- 1997 – Col Reimund G. Warnken, USAF, BSC
- 1998 – CDR Robert A. Mann, MSC, USN
- 1999 – LTC Lawton Seal, MS, USA
- 2000 – Lt Col Danny Sanger, USAF, BSC
- 2001 – CAPT Gregory R. Craigmiles, MSC, USN
- 2002 – LTC Christian Whelen, MS, USA
- 2003 – Lt Col Dale A. Ferguson, USAF, BSC
- 2004 – CDR Michael L. Finch, MSC, USN
- 2005 – LTC Marilyn D. Brew, MS, USA
- 2006 – Maj Norman C. Fox, III, USAF, BSC
- 2007 – CDR Cindy Wilkerson, MSC, USN
- 2008 – LTC Kevin McNabb, MS, USA
- 2009 – Lt Col Brian Casleton, USAF, BSC
- 2010 – CDR Chris Howe, MSC, USN

SAFMLS Meeting Sites

- 1972 – Las Vegas, NV
- 1973 – Washington DC
- 1974 – New Orleans, LA
- 1975 – USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO
- 1976 – San Antonio, TX
- 1977 – Williamsburg, VA
- 1978 – Seattle, WA
- 1979 – San Antonio, TX
- 1980 – Washington DC
- 1981 – No Meeting
- 1982 – Reno, NV
- 1983 – San Antonio, TX
- 1984 – Washington DC
- 1985 – Reno, NV
- 1986 – San Antonio, TX
- 1987 – Baltimore, MD
- 1988 – Reno, NV
- 1989 – San Antonio, TX
- 1990 – Baltimore, MD
- 1991 – No Meeting
- 1992 – San Antonio, TX
- 1993 – Washington DC
- 1994 – Reno, NV
- 1995 – San Antonio, TX
- 1996 – Washington DC
- 1997 – Spokane, WA
- 1998 – San Antonio, TX
- 1999 – Washington DC
- 2000 – Los Angeles, CA
- 2001 – Houston, TX
- 2002 – Spokane, WA
- 2003 – Reno, NV
- 2004 – Boston, MA
- 2005 – Jacksonville, FL
- 2006 – Reno, NV
- 2007 – Boston, MA
- 2008 – New Orleans, LA
- 2009 – Reno, NV
- 2010 – San Diego, CA
- 2011 – New Orleans, LA
- 2012 – Memphis, TN
- 2013 – St. Louis, MO
- 2014 – Reno, NV

Award Winners

- 1986 – San Antonio, TX
 - Outstanding Young Research Scientist – CPT Robert S. Borowski, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Young Clinical Scientist – CPT John C. Schilhaab, MS, USA
 - Young Laboratory Administrator – Capt Melonee J. Hartzman, USAF, BSC
 - Best Paper – Capt Patricia A. Reilly, USAF, BSC
 - Best Poster – LTC Lloyd E. Lippert, MS, USA
- 1987 – Baltimore, MD
 - Award data unavailable
- 1988 – Reno, NV
 - Outstanding Young Research Scientist – CPT Robert E. Miller, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Young Clinical Scientist – 1 Lt Jeffrey L. Bryant, USAF, BSC
 - Young Laboratory Administrator – Capt Debra M. Niemeyer, USAF, BSC
 - Best Presentation – Unknown or not given
 - Best Poster – Unknown or not given
- 1989 – San Antonio, TX
 - Outstanding Young Research Scientist – CPT R. Paul Schaudies, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Young Clinical Scientist – Capt Danny G. Seanger, USAF, BSC
 - Young Laboratory Administrator – Capt Samuel (Phil) Livingstone, USAF, BSC
 - Past President's Award for Excellence – COL Gary B. Clark, MS, USA
 - Best Presentation – David L. McGlasson, MS, CLS/NCA
 - Best Poster – CPT David K. Turgeon, MS, USA
- 1990 – Baltimore, MD
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – MSgt John C. Kiefer, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – CPT Karl E. Friedl, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – Lt Col Allan J. Reiter, USAF-R, BSC
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – LCDR Marjorie Ann Bianco, MSC, USN
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Capt Debra M. Niemeyer, USAF, BSC
 - Past President's Award for Excellence – COL James E. Spiker, MS, USA
 - Best Paper – MAJ Dale R. Hamilton, MS, USA
 - Best Poster – Capt Christopher E. Jones, USAF, BSC
- 1991 – No Meeting
- 1992 – San Antonio, TX

- Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – TSgt Kenneth W. Moser, USAF
- Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Mr. Barry Levine
- Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – Capt Nancy L. Boriack, USAF-R, BSC
- Outstanding Clinical Scientist – CPT Bill Nauschuetz, MS, USA
- Outstanding Lab Manager – Lt Col Michael H. Caldwell, USAF, BSC
- Past President’s Award for Excellence – Col Gary A. Wandmacher, USAF, BSC
- Best Paper – Unknown or not given
- Best Poster – Unknown or not given
- 1993 – Washington DC
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SSgt Simon D. Willett, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Maj Russell S. Boyd, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – MAJ (P) JeanneMarie C. McNamara, MS, USAR
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – Maj William W. Ward, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Lt Col Margaret B. Jackson, USAF, BSC
 - Past President’s Award for Excellence – Lt Col Ted L. Hadfield, USAF, BSC
 - Best Paper – MAJ Robert S. Stewart, Jr., MS, USA
 - Best Poster – LTC Jurgen D. von Bredow, MS, USA
- 1994 – Reno, NV
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SFC Carlos Castillo, Jr., USA
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Capt Robert L. Hagan, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – LTC Arthur Rosenberg, MS, USAR
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – Maj Jeffrey L. Bryant, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Lt Col Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, BSC
 - Past President’s Award for Excellence – Not given
 - Best Paper – Unknown or not given
 - Best Poster – Harvey A. Schwertner et. al
- 1995 – San Antonio, TX
 - Award data unavailable
- 1996 – Washington DC
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SMSgt Dennis Barnard, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Capt Philip Belgrader, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – Capt Laurel Dinerstein, USAF-R, BSC
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – Maj Michael Fitch, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Capt Ron Rippito, USAF, BSC
 - Past President’s Award for Excellence – Col Michael Dickerson, USAF, BSC

- Best Paper – Capt Lucia More, USAF, BSC, and MAJ Richard Gomez, MS, USA (Tie)
- Best Poster – Unknown or not given
- 1997 – Spokane, WA
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SSgt Randall Harris, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Maj Debra Niemeyer, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – MAJ William Gower, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – LT Ronald Bajet, MSC, USN
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – LT Col Paul Barnicott, USAF, BSC
 - Past President’s Award for Excellence – COL Thomas Sprague, MS, USA
 - Best Paper – Unknown or not given
 - Best Poster – Unknown or not given
- 1998 – San Antonio, TX
 - Award data unavailable – the missing years
- 1999 – Washington DC
 - Award data unavailable – the missing years
- 2000 – Los Angeles, CA
 - Award data unavailable – the missing years
- 2001 – Houston, TX
 - Award data unavailable – the missing years
- 2002 – Spokane, WA
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – MSG Russell Gonzales, USA
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – CPT Charla Gaddy, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Lt Col Patricia Reilly, USAF, BSC
 - Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – Lt Col Samuel (Phil) Livingstone, USAF
 - Best Clinical Poster – SPC Michael Coombes, USA
 - Best Research Poster – Lt Col Oswald Johnson, USAF, BSC et al.
- 2003 – Reno, NV
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SSgt Angel Allison, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – TSgt Camille Blackmon, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – CPT Hassan Zahwa, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – LtCol Bailey Mapp, USAF, BSC
 - Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – Col (Ret) Robert Martig, USAF, BSC
 - Best Clinical Poster – LCDR Ronald Bajet, MSC, USN
 - Best Research Poster – Lt Col David Kulesh, USAF, BSC
- 2004 – Boston, MA
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – TSgt(sel) Aaron Guilfoil, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Capt Maria Kohler, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – LT Johnathan Ware, MSC, USN

- Outstanding Lab Manager – CDR Christine L. Congdon, MSC, USN
- Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – Col(sel) (Dr.) Debra Niemeyer, USAF, BSC
- Best Clinical Poster – Col Stephen Golden, USAF, BSC; Maj Ileana Hauge, USAF, BSC; Capt Michelle Straka, USAF, BSC; and SSgt Steve Young, USAF
- Best Research Poster – MAJ Aziz Qabar, MS, USA; Marian Nelson, Juanita Guzman, Charlene Corun
- 2005 – Jacksonville, FL
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – HMC Domingo Saldana, USN
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Maj Richard Schoske, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – Capt Claude C. Grisgsby, USAF-R, BSC
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – Capt Jeanette M. Watterson, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Maj Nathan H. Johnson, USAF, BSC
 - Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – Maj Robert Zajac, USAF, BSC
 - Best Clinical Poster – Capt Jeanette M. Watterson, USAF, BSC
 - Best Research Poster – MAJ Steven D. Mahlen, MS, USA
- 2006 – Reno, NV
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – MSgt Ellen L. Ebel, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – Maj Ileana Hauge, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – LTC Roseanne M. Dwyer, MS, USAR
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – CPT William J. (Jeff) Smith, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – Lt Col John R. Hickman, USAF, BSC
 - Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – CDR Cindy Wilkerson, MSC, USN
 - Best Clinical Poster – Mr. Harvey A. Schwertner
 - Best Research Poster – CPT Jeanne Geyer, MS, USA
- 2007 – Boston, MA
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SMSgt Jonathan R. Shane, USAF
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – LTC Michael P. Kozar, USA
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – COL Lawrence R. Suddendorf, MS, USAR
 - Outstanding Clinical Scientist – Capt Donna J. Fox, USAF, BSC
 - Outstanding Lab Manager – LTC Danny R. Deuter, MS, USA
 - Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – CAPT Michael L. Finch, MSC, USN
 - Best Clinical Poster – 1Lt Anthony B. Polito, USAF, BSC
 - Best Research Poster – Maj Eric V. Olsen, USAF, BSC
- 2008 – New Orleans, LA

- Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – SSG Gigi Walker, USA
- Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – MAJ Jeanne Geyer, MS, USA
- Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – LTC Robin Wein, MS, USAR
- Tri-Service Junior Laboratory Officer – Capt Paul Eden, USAF, BSC
- Tri-Service Senior Laboratory Officer – Maj Imelda Catalasan, USAF, BSC
- Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – LtCol Bailey Mapp, USAF, BSC
- Best Clinical Poster – CPT Kelly W. Wilhelms, MS, USA
- Best Research Poster – CPT Darci R. Smith, MS, USA
- 2009 – Reno, NV
 - Outstanding Enlisted Service Member – MSgt Malynda Emerson, USAF
 - Alumni Association of the Blood Bank Fellowship (AABBF) Junior Blood Bank Officer of the Year – CPT Warren Brown, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Clinical Research Scientist – LTC Lanette Hamilton, MS, USA
 - Outstanding Reserve/Guard Laboratorian – COL Roman Golash, MS, USAR
 - Tri-Service Junior Laboratory Officer – Capt Jerome Vinluan, USAF, BSC
 - Tri-Service Senior Laboratory Officer – CDR Cynthia Wilkerson, MSC, USN
 - Distinguished Service Award for Excellence – CAPT Larry Ciorlito, MSC, USN
 - Best Clinical Poster – CPT Edward Keen, III, MS, USA
 - Best Research Poster – CPT William Keener, MS, USA

Acknowledgements

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COL Suellyn Novak

I would like to thank COL Novak for her dedication and work compiling 30 odd years of SAFMLS history and hope to continue the tradition that she has established.