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AMT
American Medical Technologists
Certifying Excellence in Allied Health



*Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia
March 4, 2018
by Patty Harris*

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President's Message April 2018

Greetings from Southwest Virginia!

Spring has arrived in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains!

The Spring Board meeting was held at the Comfort Inn Business meeting room in Salem, Virginia. The board had a long list of items to address including the status of the society in Virginia.

In an effort to promote our profession I will be visiting as many schools as possible this year to reach out to students. If there is an Allied Health training program near you and you would like a visit to your area, please give me a call. I will be glad to share AMT information to include why you should consider AMT certification and membership.

The National AMT Convention will be held in Washington, DC this year. Get your registration complete soon to get the discount before the May 1 deadline. The program looks very interesting and for those that require CE, there's always something for you!

The Magnolia Educational meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn-Gulfport, MS. This educational event is scheduled for October 19 & 20, 2018. Hotel Reservation number is

228-679-1700. The hotel cost is \$115.00 + tax per night. This is a great educational event. Please make plans to attend.

You may wonder why Virginia isn't having an educational meeting this fall in the State of Virginia. Every other year, we join with the states in the southeast to form a large educational meeting. Please plan to join us for this meeting. The registration cost prior to September 18, 2018 for the 2-day meeting is \$80.00. More information can be found on the website.



Finally, I would like to say a big "Thank-You!" to the VSSAMT Board members. There is much work that goes into the maintenance of the society and these folks have certainly given their time and talent. As president of the society, I appreciate being able to count on the board.

I hope to see many of you at the July meeting in DC. Please go to www.americanmedtech.org to find more information. Find the tab "Learn" and in the drop down you will find "state societies". Virginia's website can be reached there.

Safe Travels to all

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Editor's Message
Patty Harris, MT (AMT)

I am proud to serve as the VSSAMT editor to "The New Virginian" and I thank VSSAMT members for allowing me to be the editor of this newsletter, as well as the privilege of serving on your Board. I encourage all of our members to attend your society meetings. You will network with fellow medical professionals, learn about advances in the medical field, and even earn continuing education hours.

The AMT National Convention is coming up on July 1-5, 2018 in Washington, D.C. This meeting is close by and we should have more attendees from Virginia. This will be an excellent chance for us to attend a National Convention without having to travel very far. Besides all the educational programs AMT has arranged for all attendees to travel to the Potomac River so we can view the fireworks near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Anyone that has been to Washington, DC on a busy day will welcome the opportunity to see fireworks in the National Capitol without having to drive or park.

Every two years, Virginia joins with several southern states for the Magnolia Educational Treasures (MET) Program. This is two days of some of the best educational programs available

anywhere in the country. This year the Magnolia Educational Treasures will meet on October 19-20, 2018. I encourage you to attend and meet your VSSAMT officers at work.

The National AMT requires each state to have a business meeting and an educational session each year. Please attend these meeting and be part of our society. Members of VSSAMT can also become part of our board. This is your society and I encourage each member to become actively involved in your society

Spring 2018 Southern District Councillor's Message

It has been a mild winter with very little precipitation to speak of. That only means one thing, spring is just around the corner! The 80th AMT Educational Program and National Meeting July 1-5, 2018 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20001. Phone 202-737-1234. Room rates will be \$ 129.00 plus tax per night single or double \$ 154 plus tax triple occupancy or \$ 179 quadruple occupancy. Make your reservations as soon as possible. Once the room block is filled, the guaranteed room rate is gone so make your reservations now and if you need to cancel, you need to cancel two days prior to your arrival date. Room rates are good from June 29 through July 8th. Mark your calendars and make your reservations now!

Registration for the Washington, DC meeting is now available online. AMT has a special low early bird rate of \$ 275 for the full package for all members. Registration will jump up to \$ 475 after May 1 so register now so you do not miss out on saving \$ 200. You can also register for one day only registrations this year. There will be no extensions to the May 1 deadline for early bird registration. The preliminary program will be available on the website the middle of March. You will notice there will be numerous workshops offered on Sunday however there is an additional charge if you want to attend. They are not included in the full package. Check out the preliminary program when it becomes available for times and locations of events as there's been some shuffling of events due to the July 4th celebration on Wednesday evening.

The 81st AMT Educational Program and National Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois July 1-5, 2019. Hotel to be announced once the contract is signed. More details will become available on a later date.

Please attend your state society meetings. Consider having joint meetings with other AMT state societies. They are an excellent source of continuing education, an opportunity to share your knowledge with your AMT family and to keep abreast of current AMT information. The Magnolia Educational Treasures (MET) Southern District meeting will be held October 19-20, 2018 in Gulfport, Mississippi. Come join us!

Publications are available on State Society websites however AMT will need to start archiving previous year issues. Currently there are eight years of publications posted. AMT plans to keep the most current two years of publications readily available on the websites.

This is a special time for me to say how very proud I am of the Southern District and to congratulate all national award and publication winners. Thank you for all your hard work!

I would like to say thank you to each of you for your hard work and dedication to AMT throughout the year and making the Southern District shine. Each of you truly are the "Pride of the Profession". I look

forward to seeing each of you at your state meeting this year and the national meeting in Washington, DC.

If you have any questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me at k9kid@bellsouth.net or phone me at (h) 615-833-3427 or (c) 615-424-0550

AMT is the choice for allied health professional certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye A. Tschop, MT (AMT)
AMT Southern District Councillor



**Legislative Message
By Patty Harris, MT (AMT)**

Our legal counsel, Michael McCarty, always watches out for AMT on legislative issues and other government concerns that could affect the laboratory profession. If there are licensing changes being considered, Mr. McCarty is watching out for AMT's interest. Virginia hears a few rumblings about licensure, but there is no current organized effort to draft a bill at this time for state licensure.

**Management Article:
Shortage of Laboratory Staff
By Patty Harris, MT (AMT)**

A major concern of all laboratory management is the increase average age of laboratory professionals. The average age of laboratory workers has steadily increased over the last few years. With so many retiring laboratory workers we are left with a major shortfall of staff for our laboratories. We have seen less young people going into the laboratory field over the last few

years and this is only contributing to the growing problem of a personnel shortage on a professional level.

The decreasing number of educational programs in our field is just adding to the shortage of medical technologists and medical laboratory technicians.

Another factor affecting our shortage of laboratory personnel is the increased demand for laboratory workers as our aging population balloons and people are living longer. This elevates the demand for laboratory testing as well as the needs for medical professionals.

Delegate Report: What is Involved

The AMT National Convention is a very special time of year for me and has meant so much to me throughout my career. To be a delegate to this convention, one must attend your state level meetings and participate in the operations of the state society, as well as take advantage of the educational sessions offered. The state meeting attendees will elect delegates to the national convention as they meet criteria previously established. This delegate status means you represent your state members in business and policy decisions related to the national organization. This also means you will receive some delegate assistor monies from the state treasury. To “earn” your delegate compensation, the state society has certain designated events you must attend to receive the full delegate stipend. They are all very enjoyable and a wonderful opportunity to interact with AMT members from everywhere! Delegate Duties for Virginia State Society Delegates include:

Opening Ceremonies: Always so impressive; a color guard presents the American flag for the pledge of allegiance, we sing the national anthem and there is an opening prayer—this gets the week off to the right start!

Keynote Address: The opportunity to hear and enjoy a great speaker chosen for entertainment value as well as a learning opportunity—CEUs are given for this session.

Welcome Party: Delegates must attend the welcome party; this is the first night of convention when everyone gets together for food, music and the state basket give-aways. This is when you greet old friends and meet new first-timers to make them feel welcome!

Committee Meetings: If you are a member of a national committee, you should attend your committee meeting at the designated time in the program.

Resolutions Committee: All members should attend; this is when members may bring forth resolutions to petition for bylaws changes or to honor someone.

Meet the Candidates: All delegates need to hear each candidate running for election to the board present their initiatives and what they would like to accomplish if elected to the board. A time is allowed for questions to the candidates from the delegates. A state delegate needs to be an informed voter!

Southern District Meeting: Yes, you have to get up early this day! The Southern District Councilor meets with the delegates from all her states who are in attendance. A representative of each state stands and gives information about their most recent state meetings and upcoming meetings. Award winners are recognized.

Credentialing: Each state delegate is responsible to get to the credentialing committee and be “credentialed”. Your delegate status will be verified and that you are a member in good

standing. Your name badge is stamped and initialed. You will need to show this when entering the business meeting with your delegation.

Town Hall: Each delegate should attend this session to hear national officers and committee chairs give their reports. This is also the “open mike” session where members can come forward with questions or concerns.

Annual Business Meeting: The delegates for each state march in at the specific time and count off. The business of the organization is conducted and elections are held.

To be a state delegate is a real honor. It is an opportunity to serve and give something back to your organization. You will still have time to attend education sessions and enjoy social events. Please consider becoming active in your state society and stepping up to serve at the national level!

Nancy B. Barrow, MT (AMT) MAY 2018

**Pride of the Profession- Fifty Years
By Linda Jones-Sotak, MT (AMT)**

Has it really been 50 years since I took the AMT MT exam and passed it? The National home office sent me my fifty-year pin.

Where did this time go? I was a Lab Tech, Hospital Lab Manager, Reference Lab Manager, Compliance Manager, Consultant, Moon Lighting Weekend Bench Tech, and I am still a VP of Compliance. I wrote articles that were published, lectured on the State, District and National levels, served as National Publications Councilor, served on the National AMT Board, served on the AMTIE Board, and on the Virginia State AMT Board. I was honored with all kinds of awards, state and National, to include the Tech of the Year and the most coveted Golden Microscope. I made friends with people from all over the United States. Many are still my friends, and some have passed on to be with our Lord. They are waiting for us. While doing all of this, I still had a husband, family, worked to make a living professionally, and spent many hours on the back of a cabbage setter, driving a tractor, and picking up pumpkins.

Somehow, I hope I was still the “Pride of the Profession.” This life has been a joy to live.

Linda Jones-Sotak at the beginning of her profession and now after 50 years.

Pictures from Anna Catron and Patty Harris



Note: VSSAMT wants to thank Linda for her contributions on both the National and State level of AMT. We are proud of you!

**VSSAMT Spring Board Meeting
By Patty Harris, MT (AMT)**

The VSSAMT Board meeting was April 7, 2018 in Salem, Virginia. We had a busy agenda. Remember the VSSAMT and the National AMT Board governs how your organization performs and we encourage all members to be active in the society so you can have a part in these decisions. The Board would also like to encourage our state society members to become active on the state level so we could consider them as members to the Board.

Our attendance was good and we welcomed two AMT members- Sheena Johnson, RMA (AMT) and Teresa Reyes, MT (AMT) that attended to find out how their society operated. We encourage these ladies and other VSSAMT members to express their interest in joining our Board when they become qualified.



Left to right: AMT members Teresa Reyes, MT (AMT) and Sheena Johnson, RMA (AMT) with our VSSAMT President Anna Catron. Pictures by Patty Harris

Below: VSSAMT Secretary Nancy Barrows at work.
Picture by Patty Harris



Members at Work for VSSAMT

The Virginia State Society of American Medical Technologists was invited to send a delegation to the ASCLS-Virginia state meeting on April 20, 2018. Teresa Reyes and myself attended on behalf of our state society. We attended excellent educational sessions on microbiology, point of care testing and regulation of clinical laboratory scientists. The ASCLS-Virginia group has expressed interest in some joint activities with our society, including educational opportunities and representation at state licensure discussions. We look forward to collaborating with this group in future endeavors. I wish to thank the state society for giving me the opportunity to attend this meeting and interact with this group.

Submitted by Nancy B. Barrow, MT (AMT)

**In loving Memory
By Patty Harris, MT (AMT)**

In the past few months we have had several of our AMT members or their family members passing away. The entire AMT organization is like one family so we all grieve for the loss of these precious people. We know we cannot cover everyone in this article but we do extend our sincere condolences and expression of sympathy to all AMT members who had a death in their family.

David McCullough, from Mount Airy, North Carolina died January 19, 2018 of ALS. Dave was an active member of AMT on both the state and national level. He served as National AMT President from 2004 to 2006. During his term of office he helped AMT make important strides on both areas of finance and improvement of the acceptance of the AMT certifications. Dave served in numerous offices and committees at all levels. He has received almost every award offered on both the state and national level. He received the "Order of the Golden Microscope" in 1998. This is the highest award that can be awarded to an AMT member.

Dave McCullough is pictured wearing the honored "Order of Golden Microscope" award

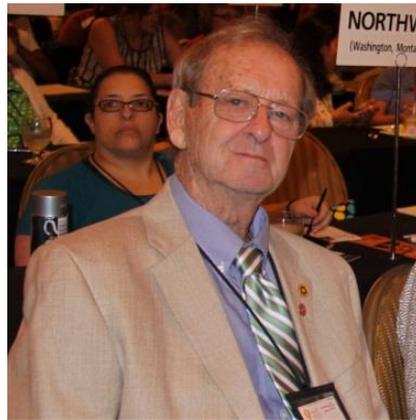


Dave started the Northern Hospital of Surry County School of Medical Technology in 1964. This is where I became acquainted with Dave in 1970. I was straight out of high school and my biology and chemistry teachers recommended me for a position at the local hospital in the laboratory. He taught me a love of the laboratory profession which has allowed me to enjoy this profession for over 46 years.

At the last National Convention, it was evident that his health was failing. He hugged me and told me how proud he was of me. I knew this was his good bye. When he spoke about his career and his service with AMT it became even more evident he was saying goodbye to the entire convention attendees. He considered his past students in his lab school to be one of his greatest legacies. Dave may have passed but he will always be remembered by his former students and his AMT family.

Below: Dave sitting with his North Carolina delegates at the National Convention.

Pictures from Kaye Tschop.

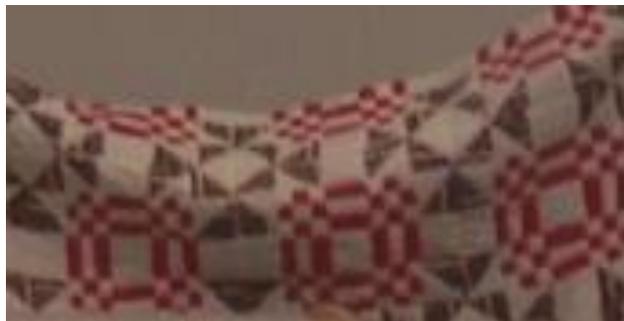


Lela Bowles, the mother of Nancy Barrows and a resident of Patrick Springs, Virginia died on February 1 ,2018 at the age of 96. Mrs. Bowles will be remembered for the beautiful quilts she made each year for the VSSAMT.



Mrs. Bowles and a picture of last year's quilt that was raffled by VSSAMT.

Pictures from Nancy Barrow and Patty Harris



Ruth Ann Bouchelle passed on November 14, 2017 at the age of 94 years in Sarasota, Florida. She was the mother of Don Bouchelle, a VSSAMT member.

Rocky Lamplugh, a former AMT Board member passed away in March, 2018.

Vera Brown, the wife of Paul Brown passed away in January, 2018. She was seen frequently at AMT events with other members of her family. Paul has been President of AMT and has held many positions on the state and national level.

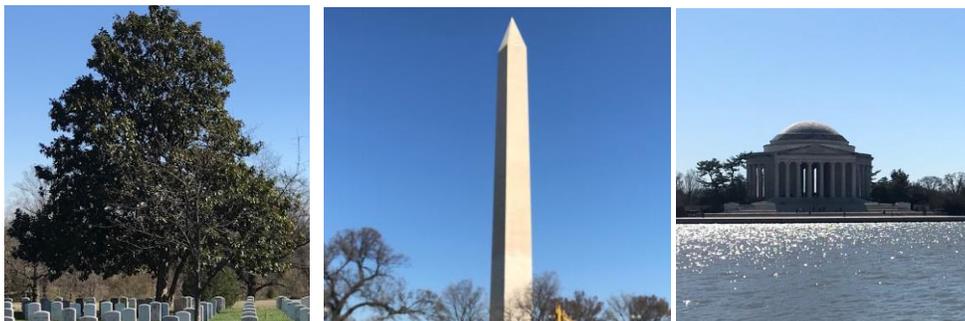
Connie Henderon-Damon, the wife of Chris Damon the AMT Executive Director passed on March 22, 2018 from ovarian cancer.

VSSAMT wanted to recognize these important people because they are an important part of our AMT family.

Important Dates to Remember By Patty Harris, MT (AMT)

**Educational Program and National Meeting
July 1-5, 2018
Washington, DC**

The national meeting registration is now open!



Places to see while you are in Washington, D.C. include Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Monument, and Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Pictures by Patty Harris

Magnolia Educational Treasures Meeting

Date:

"Finding Educational Treasures in the Gulf"
October 19-20, 2018

Location:

Holiday Inn Gulfport Airport
9515 Highway 49
Gulfport, Mississippi 39503