

REGION II – CAROL BARONE

I. As our region only has a Regional Symposium every two years in order to allow the states to hold a meeting with better attendance on the off year, we did not have a Region II meeting in 2011, nor do we plan one. However, plans have been taking place since early January with the region presidents for a 2012 Region II Symposium.



Maryland has graciously accepted to be the host State... but in order to help our VA members with continuing education opportunities; these Region II presidents have selected Williamsburg, VA as the site for the Region II – 2012 Symposium. Janice Alvarez is the Chair of the 2012 meeting. She has been working with the Maryland Society members and the Presidents of the other active states in the region and has signed a contract (reviewed by Aubrey Wanner) with the Kings Mill Road Marriot, Williamsburg, VA for April 25, 26, 27 – 2012. We know this is somewhat in conflict with the timing of the Region I Symposium, but after talking with vendors, believe the meetings are far enough apart geographically, not to conflict. The vendors actually like the time and site.

I have also touched base with Angela Fogg about a possible joint Region I and Region II meeting for 2013, a year in which we would not normally hold a Region II meeting. She will bring the suggestion to her BOD and thinks it has merit, as do the vendors.

Janice and Sophie Thompson, who made the initial site visit to the Marriot, were impressed with venue. Janice “crunched the numbers” and after checking historical attendance for past 3 Region II events, has said she is comfortable with the numbers. All in all we agreed in it was a good contract and was signed by Janice, as Host State Chair.

After one more phone conferences, Janice, Sophie and I agreed it is time for “bodies” to meet in person and committees to be developed with a concrete educational agenda. I sent the up-dated to the presidents, there have been no negative replies. Janice is arranging a time and place for us all to meet to focus on the fine details of the event. I will also visit the site with Janice after the region players have met and we have discussed any other questions we may have regarding the venue. Region II 2012 Symposium is officially an event.

II. After much effort in trying to assist the State of VA with re-establishing membership in it’s old society over the past two years, and again at the meeting in Seattle, we found no way within their present by-laws to correctly handle the issues which are preventing it from being a functioning society. Since the By-laws made no provisions for an “Acting” President (Sophie Thompson) and/or VP (Roger Rourke), we abandoned this approach.

I forwarded the by-laws to Kerry Crabb for an opinion and after briefly discussing with Kerry, and finding no options in the by –laws, seized upon a suggestion he made to just organize a new Society for Virginia. I opened this discussion with the VA representatives who wanted to see Virginia have an active Society and we came up with the attached resolution for VA, which was sent out as a letter from me, as Region II Director to present VA NSH members, past Histotechnology Society of VA members and associate science facilities in both VA and DC.

The new Society is named the Virginia Histology Society and as of today has 40 active members. The interim committee is checking into state regulation and tax requirements for the organization and new officers have assumed their positions

III. Region II celebrated the 2nd Annual Histotechnology Professionals Day in a variety of ways. As we hope to continue to raise *awareness* of the importance of our field.

- DE – (President Michelle Hart)
 - Held several open houses, had displays at facilities and invited techs from other facilities to a joint luncheon.
 - DE techs are discussing a newspaper article on several facilities, in 2012, to demonstrate the breath of Histology as a Science.
 - Terry Coen, a senior histologist from Christiana Care Health Systems, was selected Delaware's Histotech of the Year for 2011.
 - Delaware also held its annual Joint Dinner (with Speaker and CEU's) in conjunction with the Delaware State Clinical Laboratory Scientists (DSCLS), during Lab week.
 - Histotechs also met with the Lieutenant. Gov., Matt Denn of Delaware, for a proclamation signing and discussions on the shortage of lab scientists, both in clinical and research science.
- MD – President Janice Alvarez,
 - Janice is the new President for the Maryland Society.
 - Janice and her BOD are tackling the Region II, as mentioned. but has still
 - They held a state meeting in May. As we all know Janice's enthusiasm is always infectious.
- NJ –President, Pedro Louro.
 - NJ had a great state meeting, as well.
 - They are now in the process of creating an Education Committee to bring further continuing education to histologists in the Garden State.
 - NJ, who also hosted the Region II Symposium in 2010, has an active and progressive society that always reaches out to serve the region, as well.
- PA – Gloria Limetti, President:
 - Is re-organizing, at present. After the loss of several members of the BOD, for various reasons.
 - I hope to make membership in PA my next target of action, now that VA has found its way back to health. Perhaps using the VA model will help jump start PA.
- VA – Update was noted above in Section II

IV. I have enjoyed my last two years as Region II Director and would like to thank the President's of Region II:

- Michele Hart- DE
- Janice Alvarez – MD/Terri DeCarli (past)
- Pedro Louro- NJ/Diana Goodwin (past)
- Gloria Limetti – PA
- Olga Koch – VA / Sophie Thompson (past interim)

Special note: Sophie Thompson. She is retiring at the end of the year. Though she is a cytologist, none of the activities in Virginia could have happened without her support and interest in seeing VA succeed in developing a functional society. She hopes to stay active in the NSH. I hope so, too.

Thank you to all Region Presidents for remaining constantly committed to their state societies and Region II. Having this hard working and talented group of people, and their members, is a reminder of the dedication histologists in this region have to continuing education and progressive science in the field.