

# President's Message

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Dear SAFMLS members,

This particular Scope edition, I have the rose for a Consultant's Corner and President's Corner, both at the same time. I took over as Clinical Laboratory Sciences Consultant for the Army on 1 November 2016.

No, I promise, this corner is not about how I never thought I would ever be Consultant (but it is true, I still think it was yesterday when I received my commission and sat through so many briefings by prior Consultants knowing they were "giants" in the field of laboratory medicine, and I do not come close to that).

My angle with this corner is about pushing yourself and putting yourself out there, as you never know where that will take you. Likely, that journey will reap more benefits than heartaches and I strongly believe unknowingly, it opened many doors to the path that brought me to where I am. No, I as a norm have no time for more additional duties. The fact I have to do both the corner as President, SAFMLS and Army Consultant, was not necessarily by choice, but when asked, I have never turned away from challenges.

Please allow me a moment to digress to make my point: I had the fortune of attending my first SAFMLS annual meeting in Spokane, WA in 1997. That opened up my eyes and my mind to another world out there. Attending a meeting with vendors, educational sessions, colleagues from all services, was mind-blowing. I came back rich with experiences, ideas, and to some degree, strategic vision for our field. One of the things I remember was that my peers were the ones presenting the sessions, publishing the posters, manning the booths. You get it. It is the number one thing we do when we serve is: where do I volunteer, if this is by us, for us, I want to help. Sign me up. For that matter, the services are competitive in nature, and I wanted to do my Army part, to be right up there with the "sea of blue" (both Navy and Air Force) doing this. As much as I was afraid to speak in public, LTC Mike Walter and I submitted a two-hour workshop abstract, and presented for the first time in 1999. And we made it, and it was great, and it went great. With a lot of preparation and rehearsal, our talk on how to manage outlying laboratories, was very well received. It was not about us, it was about sharing, educating, helping each other out. After that, I presented workshops, short topics, posters at every SAFMLS annual meeting with the exception of when I deployed or was an Assignment Officer/ Detailer. I also put my name in the hat concurrently for Army Member at Large, eventually being voted as Vice President in 2012 and then President in 2016. Bottom line, where there is passion, you will always find a way to make ends meet, so push yourself. I am one that when there is an opportunity to volunteer, I tend to, otherwise I know I will never be asked again. In closing, I really think that by putting myself out there, without necessarily knowing it, I was making myself visible for higher opportunities.

I say all this because as this edition is being published, we are still doing the calls for President, Vice President, Member at Large, as well as articles for our publication. I could not find a better way to get involved and making that passion that you have for laboratory medicine and federal facilities known by putting your name in the hat or submitting an article. You just simply never know where that will take you; who will hear you presenting, that then sits on a promotion board and has seen you first hand doing something above and beyond. Please never pass up on these opportunities to showcase yourself for the right reasons.

Changing subjects, our next Scope will be dedicated to the 5Ws of KnowledgeLab 2017. However, here is some preliminary information:

KnowledgeLab 17 CLMA annual venue is taking place Sunday March 26 to Wednesday 29, 2017 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN. On Sunday the 26th we are in the phase of

planning service breakouts, while CLMA holds their leadership sessions. On Wednesday the 29th, Knowledge-Lab ends at 1200; SAFMLS and the different services will likely have breakouts 1200 to ~1630 as in previous years. How you get orders to attend is service specific. There are no SAFMLS central funds. **IF YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING, JUST WAITING ON ORDERS, REGISTER NOW:**

You must register now (you can pay later when you get your orders) <http://www.clma.org/e/in/eid=129>

If you do not have a log-in, you may not be current with your bundled membership (\$50). If you are not, you will not get the discounted registration. If you need to renew your membership, please contact Maj Aaron Lambert, USAF. [aaron.w.lambert4.mil@mail.mil](mailto:aaron.w.lambert4.mil@mail.mil)

Please also do not wait to register until you get orders. We need to know who is going NOW! To register now, but “pay later”, click on the Return to Registration (you can pay later, this will save your info). You’ll be returned to the Registration page.

Also **IF YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING, JUST WAITING ON ORDERS, MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW:** Call the hotel reservation center directly at 615-889-1000, room reservations/ group sales (press 4). Reserve a room for the \$161 gov rate. There are **ONLY** 150 rooms at per diem rate (\$161). We suggest you share a room. There are other hotels within walking distance at or below per diem rate. Uniform will likely be as in previous years: If you are traveling on government orders, this is your place of duty so plan on wearing your class B (vs utility) uniform.

As federal government laboratorians, leadership, adapting, and overcoming, are our hallmarks. Please continue a tradition of excellence and selfless service. I hope to see you there. I hope you showcase your passion for serving, and for our field.