

IN A DIFFERENT VEIN

Michigan Association of Blood Banks, c/o Lisa Tyzo, 29832 Buckingham, Livonia MI 48154
 www.mabb.org MABB_lisa@yahoo.com 734-422-3630



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Suzan Bowers, MT(ASCP)SBB



At our quarterly meeting the MABB Board members often discuss how to boost membership. We know that expanding the RAP sessions to the west and north parts of Michigan can only help. Dr. Newman is working

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Message 1-2
- In Memoriam: Kay Beattie 2-3
- Memories of Kay 3-6
- Laboratory Ambassadors 6-7
- Effect of Water on HS Vasovagal Reaction Rates 7-8
- MABB Membership Information 8
- Are You Prepared? RAP Review 9-10
- We Need Your Help! 10
- Send Articles To Editors 10
- Admin/Web/Newsletter Contact Information 10
- 2007 MABB Officers 10

hard to reach the physicians at the hospitals across the state. But the best advocates for membership are our own members. I ask all of you to take every opportunity to encourage your coworker and peers to join the MABB. When these potential members ask you what the benefits of membership are, you might think of the usual things (discounted meeting fees, newsletter, direct e-mailing of upcoming events, etc). But the benefits of membership go way beyond these usual items. And I'm proof positive of what those benefits can be.

When I became a blood banker I wanted to expand my technical knowledge. I began to attend the MABB activities. I was impressed with how the members all seemed to know each other and how they interacted and shared ideas. I realized that MABB membership was a great way to meet blood bankers from other institutions. So I joined the MABB and continued to attend every activity. As I did I got to know a few other members. Then I decided I wanted to get more involved. I decided to join the Education Committee. Working on that committee really provided the opportunity for me to meet and work with quite a group of people. Through my activities with the MABB, I have met blood bankers from just about every hospital and donor center in Michigan (and some from our neighbors in Ohio).

The people I have met are more than just acquaintances, many have become real friends. I have even roomed with some at the AABB meetings. As you get to know one or two members, they introduce you to other members that they know. And before you know it, you have a large group of new friends that all share the common bond of a love of blood banking.

As I worked on the Education Committee and got to know more people, I was elected to the board and then nominated as President-Elect and then became President. When I first joined I didn't think that I would go this far in this organization. I would look at the leaders and wonder how I could be one of them. And really all it took was being an active member and participating.

Continued on Page 2...

Continued from Page 1...

I can really thank the MABB for my current job. I met Sharon Cisco through the MABB and when she retired she encouraged me to apply for her position at the ARC. Membership in the MABB was also good for my career.

So when potential members ask you what are the benefits of membership, go beyond the usual pat answers. Tell them about friendships and leadership and career advancement. Tell them that membership is more than just something to write on a resume. It is their chance to be a part of something, to build friendships and advance their careers. And it is your opportunity to help us all build a great organization.

HOLD THE DATE

**53rd MABB
Annual Meeting:
September 19 -
20, 2007**

IN MEMORIAM

By Delores Mallory

Reprinted with permission from IMMUNOHEMATOLOGY, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2007



Katherine M. Beattie, BS, MT(ASCP)SBB 1922-2007

Kay Beattie received her BS in medical technology from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, in 1943 and began her career at Children's Hospital in Detroit. She became the supervisor of the Blood Bank at Children's in 1954. In 1957, she received her SBB certification, and in 1961, she became the co-director of the Michigan Community Blood Center in Detroit. In 1975, she joined the Southeastern Michigan region of the American Red Cross (ARC) Blood Services as director of the reference laboratory and education, a position she held until she retired to North Palm Beach, Florida, in 1988.

During her 45-year career, Kay was active at the local, state, and national levels, and was honored often by her peers. She was a

member of the Ontario Antibody Club from 1966 to 1988; the Michigan Blood Council, as chairman of the Reference Laboratory Committee from 1977 to 1988; the Invitational Conference of Investigative Immunohematologists from 1976 to 1988; and the ARC Accreditation Reference Committee from 1984 and as chairman from 1987 to 1988. As a member of the Michigan Association of Blood Banks (MABB) since its founding in 1956, Kay had served as chairman of two committees and in all offices, including the presidency. She also served on the AABB Committees on Education, Reference Laboratories, and Quality Control as vice chairman; Scientific Section Coordinating Committee as secretary; as an inspector in the Inspection Program; and on the Committee on Self-Testing and Review.

Among her awards from the AABB, she received the Ivor Dunsford Memorial Award in 1972; the prestigious Emily Cooley Lectureship Award in 1980, which was given for the first time to a medical technologist; and the Chapman-Franzmier Memorial Award in 1998. The MABB has honored Kay four times, with the Merit Award in 1963, the Technical Award in 1971, the Founders Award in 1985, and the Kay Beattie Lecture, a lecture given in her honor each year at

Continued on Page 3...

Continued from Page 2...

the MABB meeting. Kay received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1982 from Wayne State University.

Kay published 44 scientific papers and was the co-editor of the ARC Immunohematology Methods and Procedures Manual. Her final paper, on resolving ABO discrepancies, was published in 1993 in the Methods Manual.

She was a superb reference technologist and had a phenomenal memory for patients and the antibodies they made. Those of us who knew her will remember her as a mentor who always encouraged us to try harder and do better. For example, she got us on committees and asked us to give talks. She introduced us to famous people at meetings and could always explain something new in blood banking. Kay was always a great friend with a ready joke. When she retired, she did not look back. She took her golf clubs and went at golf like she went at antibodies. When she had it figured out, she was the women's club champion for many years. Her humor, intelligence, generosity, friendship, honesty, and jokes will be greatly missed.

MEMORIES OF KAY

By Sharron Zimmerman

I trained for my SBB and my senior year under Kay and Grace Neitzer. I have an interesting personal story of having to give a lecture on the M/N blood group at what had then become the ARC for MABB lecture series and Kay was in the front row. Since she was the guru of the M/N group at that time, it was quite intimidating. She was very polite and supportive, and did not ask me a question I did not know the answer to. I will remember her for her graciousness for that! She was a champion of blood group serology, and chimeras in blood groups as well. She was indeed a very gracious lady and there was always a mischievous light dancing in her eyes.

By Janet S. Deters, MT(ASCP)SBB, CQA(ASQ)
Janis R. Hamilton, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB

Those of us who had the wonderful experience of working with Kay have our own set of memories. Kay was a task master. She had high expectations for her staff, only because she had faith that we could meet them. She would encourage staff members to give talks and presentations. This was before easy computer graphics and PowerPoint programs were available. We shot and developed our own slides because she thought that the commercial preparation was too expensive. She expected our full attention and concentration when at the bench and in



*Kay Beattie received the Chapman-Franzmeier Memorial Lecture Award in 1998 at AABB in Philadelphia. Her award was for donor recruitment and the lecture was about the implementation of the Rare Donor Program for the Southeastern Michigan area.
From L to R: MaryBeth Hartrick, Kay Beattie, Sharon Cisco, Colleen Olsen*

Continued on Page 4...

Continued from Page 3...

meetings. We learned the meaning of the word “desultory” when she applied it to conversations that she felt were not contributing to the discussion at hand (desultory- “passing aimlessly from one thing or subject to another”). But if we worked hard and tried to meet our potential, we earned her respect.

Kay was an innovator. She said that she kept a note pad and pencil by her bed in case an important thought came to her during the night. In the files she left behind at retirement was her conceptual drawing of a tubing set-up where donated blood would go through a leuko-

depletion filter during component processing. This was many, many years before it became the standard practice it is today. She worked tirelessly with community and religious leaders until their support was given to the practice of questioning whole blood donors about their racial and ethnic background. Kay knew this was imperative to perform targeted testing for rare blood types.



Kay with her American Red Cross co-workers: Lab Week 1986

Kay had a passion for education. She never let an opportunity go by to share her knowledge of blood banking. When she was invited to visit China with other blood banking “Who’s Who”, she shared all that she learned on her trip with staff at the ARC region, both about Chinese blood banking and about the country itself. She also made sure we knew the people who would have the answers if she didn’t. When we attended AABB Annual Meetings with Kay, we followed her like ducklings as she maneuvered through crowds and introduced us (her “protégés”) to very famous members of the blood banking community.

There were certain things we could count on Kay for. Her special baked beans when a lab pot-luck was held (now affectionately called Kay Beattie Beans). Her suggestion of Roma’s in Eastern Market when the occasion called for a dinner out, where Kay would invariably order steak at one of Detroit’s finest Italian restaurants. Her talk of golf games when the weather turned warm. Her amazing stories of investigating unusual blood findings by going to donors’ homes to collect samples from family members. Her unending crusade to spread the word about the need for rare blood donors. Her vigorous support when we stepped out to try a new professional undertaking. Many of us trace our professional careers to the mentoring, encouragement and enthusiasm we received from Kay. To fully honor her memory, we should do no less for others. She is missed.

Continued on Page 5...

Continued from Page 4...

By Marty Weaver

These photos were taken at Kay's retirement party at the American Red Cross in Detroit, MI in 1988. Kay always made baked bean (called "Beattie Beans") for all of our parties and functions. If you look at the banner on the wall, it says, "Thanks for the beans. It's been a GAS! Happy Retirement."



Above: Marty Weaver (former MABB President and Founder's Award winner) presents Kay with a bottle of champagne.



R to L: Jan Deters (MABB Founder's Award winner), Mary Lou Laine, Kay and Marty.



Above: Kay poses with Marty and Arlene Roths.

These photos were taken for the presentation of the first Kay Beattie Lectureship in 1990. Kay was asked to speak at the annual MABB and was unaware that we had established the "Kay Beattie Lectureship" in her honor.



Above: Marty Weaver (MABB President at the time) presents an honorary inscribed clock to Kay.

Continued on Page 6...

Continued from Page 5...

Kay was an inspiration and mentor to many of the American Red Cross staff as well as a true educator for blood bankers throughout Michigan. She was dedicated to her science and was focused on furthering the future careers of young blood bankers across the state. She ran the SBB program for 20 + years, offered training for Medical Technology students and developed an Immunohematology fellowship program between ARC and William Beaumont Hospital. Many of the young blood bankers that Kay mentored went on to become valuable MABB members, presidents, and committee members. Kay will always be in our memories and will be sorely missed.

LABORATORY AMBASSADORS

By Pamela Cornwell

In the fall of 2006, the University of Michigan, Department of Pathology, began a Lab Ambassador program. Inspired by a similar program at the University of North Carolina Hospitals, the goal of the program is to give a face to the laboratory, improve customer service, and increase the morale of laboratory staff by engaging technologists in patient care areas.

A representative of each core laboratory was selected to be an ambassador based on their experience, knowledge, and communication skills. Each ambassador was then assigned to a patient care area that may be problem prone or have a high volume of lab studies performed. The goal is to identify laboratory related issues, share information, and facilitate problem resolution. Each ambassador makes a brief 15 to 30 minute visit to their nursing unit, two to four times a month, to communicate in person with nurse liaisons. There is often additional communication via email. The committee of lab ambassadors also meets twice a month to share information and experiences with each other. A supervisor oversees the ambassadors and reports to the Quality Assurance committee on group activities and progress.

For some of the ambassadors who have been working in specialized departments, their general training or experience was some years ago. Therefore, one of the first activities for the ambassadors was to tour all the laboratories with each other. Each ambassador explained the work flow and instrumentation in their respective department. This was such a valuable learning experience for the ambassadors, it was decided to host tours for their nurse liaisons as well. Each group of nurses welcomed the opportunity to tour the lab and through it, gained a greater understanding of laboratory processes. For example, although bar code labels have been utilized in the laboratory since the use of computers and automation interfaces, many nurses were unaware that barcode labels were applied to specimens to facilitate information transmission. Their observation led to a simple demonstration of how bulky, misplaced labels can impair specimen transport and identification on automated lines and instrumentation and delay results. This made a definite impression on the nurses.

By sharing our experiences with each other, the ambassadors realized that the nursing units often had similar problems that the group could resolve by working together. To improve the quality of specimens being drawn by nurses through indwelling lines and to simplify the task

Continued on Page 7...

Continued from Page 6...

for nurses, we created an updated photographic reference tool for nurses, indicating the preferred order of draw for tubes based on the current recommendations of the Clinical and Laboratory Science Institute (CLSI). The nurses can access the photo online and print out a copy to keep near the supply cart or minimize a copy to keep handy with their ID badge.

To help facilitate awareness of the program, open the door to other areas, and enhance communication, the ambassadors designed a web page. The web page is located within the department of pathology website and includes quick links to important reference information such as the updated order of draw tool and the laboratory clinical catalog that includes a wealth of information. New or revised laboratory procedures and policies are posted on the ambassador web page along with responses to frequently asked questions.

It has been six months since the inception of the program. Soon, a survey will be sent out to the participating units inviting feedback that will be used to evaluate the impact of our program. Perhaps the most telling indicator we have so far has been the basket of goodies sent to the lab to recognize National Laboratory Professionals Week. It was from one of the nursing units where we have a newly established ambassadorship. One basket can be worth a thousand words!

THE EFFECT OF A 473-mL (16-oz) WATER DRINK ON VASOVAGAL DONOR REACTION RATES IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – AN UPDATE

By Bruce Newman MD

American Red Cross, SE Michigan Region and the Great Lakes Region

Our study was accepted for publication in the journal TRANSFUSION and will probably be published in the early summer.

Over 9,000 students participated in the “water study” in the fall of 2004 and 2005. Every other donor drank 16-oz of water after being accepted for blood donation and then had their blood donation done. The most common vasovagal donor reaction symptoms and signs are dizziness, sweating, pallor, anxiety, and hypotension. Water decreased the vasovagal donor reaction rate in high-school students by 2.6%, from 12.5% to 9.9%. In a relative sense, the donor reaction rate decreased by 21%. The results from the study were the same in 2004 and 2005. The donor reaction rate was decreased by 33% when the phlebotomy was started within 10 minutes of the drink. Therefore, we could get some additional mileage, if we timed the drink to be just before the donor gets on the donation bed or chair. The effect of water disappeared after approximately 45 minutes.

Why water works is very interesting. It is not due to hydration but rather due to distension of the stomach. When we eat, our food goes into our duodenum and jejunum and the blood supply increases in the abdominal cavity to absorb the food. This increase in blood supply

Continued on Page 8...

Continued from Page 7...

could cause hypotension from lack of blood elsewhere. In order to compensate, a distended stomach causes a sympathetic discharge which causes peripheral vasoconstriction in our legs and arms to maintain our blood pressure. By giving water, we are benefiting from this same reflex. Protection against vasovagal donor reactions is proportional to the volume of distension; the greater the distension, the greater the protection. Water, however, leaves very quickly from the stomach—half of the water exits from the stomach in 20 minutes. This is why the greatest benefit is immediate and lessens with time. If donors come well-hydrated or drink at the beginning of the blood drive, they would not benefit from this mechanism.

Based on this study, we began to offer 16 oz of water to every high-school and college donor in April, 2006, and it is the donor's decision as to whether to drink the water or not. It generally takes about 5 minutes to drink the water, and it is well tolerated, although a few people may not be able to tolerate the suggested volume. It is important to offer the water after the donor is accepted for blood donation because water can cause a slight hemodilution which could increase female deferrals, and water's effect is also short-lived. Although whole-blood donation is already quite safe, the use of water further enhances safety. And theoretically, the use of water, by decreasing the blood donor reaction rate, should also improve the blood collection staff's productivity and improve blood donor return rates.

THAT'S A RAP!

A RAP Session is headed for Grand Rapids! The Education Committee is in the process of working out the details for the upcoming session. A final date has not yet been determined, so please stay tuned to your email for further announcements. Updates will also be posted online at www.mabb.org so don't forget to stop by the site as well! We look forward to seeing you in Grand RAPids!

THINKING OF JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

We'd love to have you as a MABB member! It's easy!

- Go to our website, www.mabb.org, and download the official membership form. **Please be sure to download it directly from the MABB site to ensure you have the most current membership form!** The form is available in PDF format and if you don't have the free Acrobat Reader, there is also a link there so you can download that as well.
- Print the form, fill it with your information, enclose payment, and send it to our Administrative Office. The address is listed on the form, available on the Website, and printed below for your convenience.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

By Sharon Lowry, MT(ASCP)SBB



It is the manager's day off and the inspector arrives. Is your Blood Bank prepared?

Unannounced Inspections was the topic for the MABB Spring RAP held April 18 at the Southfield Holiday Inn. The speakers were experienced and knowledgeable inspectors. The attendees included technologists and managers from both large and small blood banks, general lab, and pathology.

The attendees enjoyed dinner and conversation before presentations by the four panelists:



- Linda Cardine, MT(ASCP)SBB, supervisor at Henry Ford Hospital Medical Center opened with an overview of unannounced inspections, how to prepare the staff, a description of how the inspection process should go, and examples of questions that staff should be prepared to answer.

- Suzanne Butch, MA, MT(ASCP)SBB Administrative Manager at University of Michigan Hospitals covered the top deficiencies and nonconformances for AABB, CAP, and FDA.
- Alisa Michalishyn, MT(ASCP), CLS(NCA) Supervisor at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital described an inspection technique known as the Tracer Method and covered change control.
- Bruce Lowry, H(ASCP) Database Coordinator at Michigan Co-Tenancy Laboratories discussed computer records and documentation and his solution for a successful computer inspection.



The presentations were followed by an open discussion with the audience. The speakers shared their personal experiences about being inspected and about inspecting others. Many questions from the audience were answered, such as:

- why the number of inspectors on an inspection team for a small hospital can outnumber the lab staff,
- how can you tell when your inspection will be, and
- what do you do if you do not agree with the inspector's findings.

Continued on Page 10...



Continued from Page 9...

Strategies were presented to ensure a successful inspection, such as:

- prepare a little each week,
- share the location of documents with staff,
- provide answers to the checklist questions,
- practice asking the staff inspection questions,
- have a backup plan to ensure adequate staff on inspection day, and
- beware of uncontrolled documents and job aids.



So, it is the manager's day off and the inspector arrives. You are prepared.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

This newsletter depends upon submissions from members just like *YOU!* Please take time to submit an article that would be interesting to the rest of the members. It does not have to be journal quality, and it can even be as simple as sending the reference to an article of interest that you read recently, but *we need to hear from you!!!*

To all those who contributed to this edition and editions past, a big **THANK YOU!!!**

The deadline for next issue is **July 1, 2007.**

We hope to hear from you by then!

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Michigan Association of Blood Banks
c/o Lisa Tyzo
29832 Buckingham
Livonia, MI 48154

Phone and Fax line: 734-422-3630

Email: MABB_lisa@yahoo.com

SEND ARTICLES TO EDITORS:

The deadline for next issue is July 1st!

Mary DePouw - Crittenton Hospital
248-652-5275 email: mdepouw@crittenton.com

Bruce Newman, MD - American Red Cross
313-833-2651 email: newmanb@usa.redcross.org

WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER

Newsletter production and Web updates

Bethany Neldrett

Email: mabbwebmaster@gmail.com

Website: www.mabb.org

2007 MABB Officers

President

Suzan Bowers, MT(ASCP)SBB

President-elect

Laura Cooling, MD

Past President

Bruce Newman, MD

Treasurer

Terry Downs, MT(ASCP)SBB

Secretary

Allyson Henstock, MSM, MT (ASCP) SBB

Members-At-Large

James Fiedor, MT (ASCP)

Karen Gizzi, MT(ASCP)SBB

Sherwin Imlay, MD

LeeAnn Weitekamp, MD