



NEWSLETTER

and Society Minutes

TEXAS SURGICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2012



The 190th meeting of the Texas Surgical Society was held October 12-14, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas at the Westin La Cantera Hill Country Resort under the direction of Local Arrangements Chair **Blair Jackson** and his wife **Sheila Jackson**. Their coordinated efforts and the hospitality of the event chair's generated a wonderful experience for the one hundred fifty-two members and one hundred and twenty-six guests who participated in the weekend activities.

On Friday morning **Curly Robinson** directed the golf tournament at Westin La Cantera Golf Club for twenty-one golfers. **Leigh Taliaferro** of Abilene was awarded the Brindley Cup for low gross. The Arlington Cup for low net was presented to **Bohn Allen** of Arlington.

Tennis under the direction of **Sherri Stewart** was held at the Westin La Cantera outdoor tennis courts. Everyone was a winner and received a wonderful workout, laughed and enjoyed each other's company.

David Mullins organized the sporting clay shooting event at The National Shooting Complex and eight shooters participated. **Terry Kacy** of **Beaumont** was the winner of the Shooting Trophy.

Early Saturday morning **Richard Newman** escorted eleven joggers around the Leon Springs Greenbelt. The San Antonio Cup was awarded to **Chris Bell** who had the fastest time.

The first Scientific Session was called to order by **President John C. O'Brien** at 1:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon. He introduced **LAC, Blair Jackson**, who welcomed the membership to San Antonio and informed them of the many events

planned for the weekend. New members **Ismail Jatoi, Helen Colleen Silva, Jong O. Lee and Taylor S. Riall** all presented outstanding papers.

President O'Brien and Ross Reagan then recognized the 2012 fall class of Raleigh Ross Scholars to all in attendance. Each recipient was introduced by their Department Chair or Residency Program Director. Ryan Burkhardt was unable to attend and will be presented at the Spring Meeting in Temple. The scholars are guests of the Society and receive a personalized plaque noting their accomplishments and also receive a monetary award. Recognized were:

Ryan Burkhardt –
Baylor University Medical Center

Reagan Ross –
UT Southwestern – Dallas

Ronald Cotton –
Baylor College of Medicine – Houston

Shinil Shah –
UT Houston Medical School - Houston

President John C. O'Brien introduced the honored guest speaker, **Dr. Keith S. Heller, Professor of Surgery at NYU School of Medicine**. **Dr. Heller** shared an informative talk entitled "Current Concepts in Surgical Management of Hyperparathyroidism on Friday afternoon and again on Saturday afternoon when he presented "Controversies in the Treatment of Thyroid Cancer". The lecture was beautifully presented with composure and confidence, even in the face of loss of all power of the AV System on two occasions during the presentation.

The Executive Session began at 4:40 p.m. with **President John C. O'Brien** presiding. Minutes of the previous meeting in Dallas were unanimously approved.

Ross B. Reagan presented the Treasurer's report. As of June 30, 2012, the balance in the general fund was \$133,977.35. The Speakers' Fund has a balance of \$53,801.15. Gifts to the Speaker's Fund are appreciated and may be sent to the Treasurer or Secretary. As of August 2011, the Raleigh Ross TSS Scholarship fund had assets totaling \$2,263,394.08. Dr. Reagan presented and overview of the scholarship fund. The Raleigh Ross Trust was established by Dr. Raleigh Ross, the 59th President of the TSS. He announced the fund during his presidential address in 1976. The original gift was of 16.5 acres of ranch land fronting Hwy 290, north east of Austin. This land was sold in two parcels, one for approximately \$330,000 and the second for \$1.96 million. The sales are invested in the balanced Vanguard Wellington Fund. A percentage of the asset value is withdrawn annually to cover the scholar expenses and to fund a grant to each of the eight training programs. Each grant for 2012 was \$9,600. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by the membership.

The Audit Committee reviewed the finances of the society and found no irregularities or concerns. This report was presented to the members in attendance.

President John C. O'Brien addressed the membership and presented the second reading of the proposed constitutional amendment. He outlined the current status of the Texas Surgical Society, discussing demographics and the financial status of the Society. All members in attendance voted unanimously in favor of the second reading of the proposed change to the constitutional amendment to pay dues until the age of 72 or on retirement from practice. The following will be changed in the constitution:

Constitution Article III, Sec.3, second sentence: change "65" to "72" (Senior Fellows shall be exempt from the payment of dues at age 72 or on retirement from practice but not exempt from payment of assessments).

Financial Policy:

1. Annual dues shall be \$300, effective January 1, 2013
2. Initiation fee shall be \$350.00
3. Non-resident dues shall be \$150.00, effective January 1, 2013 (1/2 regular dues) (Art III, Sec 5)
6. b): either reached the age of 72 by January 1 of the year or retired from active practice. (Art III, Sec 3)

These changes would not require retroactive payment for those between the ages of 65 and 72, but members between these ages will be invoiced for dues moving forward. He also reported that the council directed the Secretary and the LACs to actively work to reduce the costs of the hotel and the cocktail party, focusing on value.

Memorial tributes were read for:



Jerry Doggett
1934-2012



Malcolm J. Thomas
1931-2012

Jerry Doggett of Houston
(By Ronald Stewart)

Malcolm J. Thomas. of Lubbock
(By Ronald Stewart)

The Secretary then gave the report of the Council. Updates were given regarding plans for the Temple meeting. Plans regarding the Centennial Meeting in Galveston were discussed. Dr. Courtney Townsend will serve as **LAC**. It was determined by the council to move forward

with the recommendation from the last meeting for the Chair to form a committee of past secretaries and presidents which will include Dr. Townsend and be chaired by the current Secretary. This group is tasked to meet prior to the next Council Meeting to provide recommendations to the Council on the structure and events of the upcoming Centennial Meeting.

Shelton Viney and Ed Duncan are leading the **ad hoc committee** regarding the **role of industry grants**. The ad hoc committee has been successful in working with **potential industry sponsors** and has a plan for corporate relations and the Society.

The council reviewed and discussed a proposal initiated by the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists to establish a “Texas Surgical Quality Collaborative” modeled on the state collaborative in Michigan lead by Skip Campbell, and other state regional quality collaboratives such as Washington State and Tennessee. The council believed that there needed to be stronger surgical involvement and recommended appointing **Dr. Kevin Lally** as a liaison between the proposed collaborative and the TSS. The Secretary will also be canvassing different members throughout the varied regions of the states to encourage participation.

Report of the Archivist and Archivist Emeritus was given by **Mac Sykes**. He discussed the status of the archival material in Galveston and the plans for the next Twenty-Five Year review of the TSS. He discussed the exploration of publishing a book and expenses associated with the book.

Current membership statistics were reviewed. There are **558 members**, of whom **163 are active**, **372 are senior**, **5 are honorary**, **4 are distinguished** and **27 are non-resident members**. There were **2 deaths** recorded since the last meeting. The increasing age of Society members was noted and the vital need to nominate quality surgeons was discussed. **Members are urged to propose candidates for**

membership who meet or exceed Society qualifications as outlined in the constitution and by-laws.

The **Nominating Committee** report was presented by **Wayne Schwesinger**. **Peter Lloyd Rutledge** was nominated for Council Member 2013. **Lee C. Bloemendal** was nominated for 2nd Vice President. **Samuel K. Snyder** was nominated for 1st Vice President. **Shelton Viney** was nominated for President. Dr. Viney was escorted by **Drs. Cliff Buckley and Ed Duncan** to the podium. A request for any nominations from the floor was made and there were none. A motion by Dr. Schwesinger was made to approve these nominations. This was seconded by Dr. Stewart. There was no further discussion and the nominees were unanimously approved by all in attendance.

The following members were **elevated to senior** status:

Richard Alford of Bryan
Donald M. Gibson of Houston
Robert M. Goldstein of Dallas
S. Scott Kacy of Beaumont
Marilyn Marx of Galveston
William C. Pederson of San Antonio
Francis D. Veniga of Carrollton

Fellowship applications were reviewed by the Council. **The following candidates will be included on the April ballot:**

Daniel Scott of Dallas
Daniel Dent of San Antonio
Brian Eastridge of San Antonio
Jeffrey S. Heinle of Houston
David Parrent of Bryan

Information or comments regarding these or other applicants should be sent to the secretary.

Candidates for fellowship were reviewed. All those candidates who were up for first consideration were recommended for movement to second consideration: **John F. Eckford, Lori**

L. Pounds, Eric J. Silberfein and David L. Young.

The following members who were reviewed for second consideration were recommended by the Council and **unanimously approved for active fellowship by the members:**

Marvin D. Atkins of Temple
Treneth P. Baker of Houston
W. Todd Bohannon of Temple
Francis Paul Buckley III of Georgetown
Jason Fleming of Houston
Michael B. Silva of Galveston

The Council reviewed in detail the meeting associated fees of audiovisual. The audiovisual costs were significantly reduced at the San Antonio meeting and the secretary was asked to continue to search for a good value in our AV providers and to compare the society's current costs with the national and regional norms. The Council also reviewed the "maintenance" web costs. The Council feels that these modest costs could be further reduced.

The Friday evening cocktail buffet at the **San Antonio Museum of Art was enjoyed by 185 members and guests.** Members and guests enjoyed an open bar, appetizers, dinner and were able to tour the San Antonio Museum of Art and take a 20 minute barge ride down the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk.

At 7 a.m. Saturday morning **John C. O'Brien** presided over the New Members' Breakfast in the San Miguel Room of the Westin La Cantera. Society officers and Council members welcomed the six new members, presented them with copies of books recording the history of the Society and shared glimpses of Society tradition.

The Saturday spouse activity was attended by fifteen guests. **Sheila Jackson** organized this fun outing. Spouses were transported to the Garcia Art Glass Company where they viewed a glass blowing demonstration. After the demonstration all enjoyed a pleasant lunch at Azuca.

The Saturday morning Scientific Session was opened by **President John C. O'Brien** at 8:00 a.m. Three scientific papers were presented opening with a presentation by **Dr. James E. Pridgen.**

New members were presented to the membership just prior to Saturday morning's recess by Second Vice-President, **Alan H. Tyroch.** Receiving certificates and welcomed into the Society were:

Ismail Jatoi of San Antonio
Frederick M. Langner of Wichita
Christen J. LeBlanc of Waco
Jong O. Lee of Galveston
Taylor S. Riall of Galveston
Helen Colleen Silva of Galveston

The presentation of new members was followed by **Dr. John C. O'Brien's Presidential Address, entitled *My Surgical Heroes.*** Dr. O'Brien's address was both inspirational and educational. The member guest luncheon was held in the San Antonio DEF room at 12:30 p.m. with one hundred and twenty-nine members and guests in attendance. **UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa** delivered a remarkable presentation regarding the "State of Education in Texas". The members and guests enjoyed Dr. Cigarroa's presentation thoroughly. **Blair Jackson**, local arrangements chair, presided over trophy presentations to the sporting event champions.

At 1:45 p.m. the Saturday afternoon Scientific Session convened with **First Vice-President Kamal G. Khalil** presiding. Our guest speaker **Dr. Keith S. Heller, Professor of Surgery at NYU School of Medicine** delivered an informative talk entitled on "Controversies in the Treatment of Thyroid Cancer". The meeting reconvened in the afternoon and presentations from seven members were presented.

Saturday evening cocktails and dinner were held in the Ballroom Terrace 1&2 and the San

Antonio ABC room of the hotel, with 136 members and guests in attendance.

President John C. O'Brien hosted a memorable evening highlighted by guest speaker **Robert W. Huff** who delivered an enlightening and entertaining presentation about "A Medical Student's Perspective of Michael E. DeBakey, M.D." I think everyone present agreed with the sentiments included on one post-meeting evaluation form characterizing the presentation as, "one of the best dinner talks of all time."

The James E. Thompson award for best paper by a new member was awarded to **Ismail Jatoi** of San Antonio for his presentation, "**Breast Cancer Adjuvant Therapy: Assessing Short-Term and Long Term Benefits?**" The judges for the James E. Thompson award had a difficult time in choosing the best paper by a new member as all were excellent!

The Presidential Award for Discussion was awarded to **Kamal Khalil**.

Members and guests joined **President John C. O'Brien** after dinner for coffee, dessert, and liqueurs.

The Ethics Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning in the San Miguel Room of the hotel. **Ronald L. Blumoff** addressed the 54 attendees regarding "Ethical Basis of Health Care Reform." Dr. Blumoff's talk was a great educational and thought provoking summary of the current state of health care reform in the United States.

The **next meeting** of the Society will be held in **Temple, April 5-7, 2013**, at the **Hilton Garden Inn and Scott and White Hospital**. Local Arrangements Chair, Roy and Allison Smythe are planning a delightful weekend for members and their families. Please mark your calendars now!

Please review the enclosed letter regarding your demographic information and forward any changes to the Secretary. If you would like to update your photo please forward a JPEG via email to texassurgicalsociety@gmail.com.

ABSTRACTS for the **Temple meeting** are **DUE** in the secretary's office no later than **January 3, 2013**. Please take this opportunity to submit your paper.

Please strongly consider nominating great young surgeons in your local area for membership in the Texas Surgical Society.

Please email texassurgicalsociety@gmail.com for any suggested corrections or edits to the newsletter/minutes.

Website News Reminder!!! Please login to <http://www.txsurgicalsociety.com> and register. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone at (210) 859-0776 if have any problems. Photos I took at the Fall meeting can also be accessed directly: <https://picasaweb.google.com/102921892940996439615/20121012TSSSanAntonio?authkey=Gv1sRgCiasuOegw42a0wE>

Happy Holidays!

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald M. Stewart, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Secretary