



# NEWSLETTER

## and Society Minutes

### TEXAS SURGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2013



The 192<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Texas Surgical Society was held September 20-22 in Houston, Texas at the Westin Oaks at the Galleria under the direction of Local Arrangements Chair **Scott LeMaire** and his wife **Brenda LeMaire**. Their coordinated efforts and the hospitality of the event chairman generated a wonderful experience for the 119 members and 44 guests who participated in the weekend activities. Dr. Lemaire, Brenda and their team were truly exceptional in organization, hospitality and expertise.

On Friday morning **Brad Scott** directed the golf tournament at the Wildcat Golf Club. **Bohn Allen** of Arlington, **Gail Burbridge** of Belton and **William Turney** of Waco tied for the Brindley Cup – Low Gross award at **85**. The Arlington Cup for Low Net was presented to **Gail Burbridge** of Dallas.

Tennis was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Thomas Granchi** organized the sporting clay shooting event at *the Greater Houston Gun Club*. **John Winters** of Dallas was (again) the winner of the Fort Worth Shooting Trophy.

Early Saturday morning **Laurens Pickard** escorted our joggers to *Memorial Park*. **Robert Kingman** from Corsicana was awarded the The San Antonio Cup for the fastest time. **Bruce Applebaum** from El Paso was awarded the Raleigh R. White Trophy.

The first Scientific Session was called to order by **President S. Edwin Duncan** at 1:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon. He introduced LAC, **Scott LeMaire** who welcomed the membership to Houston and informed them of the many events

planned for the weekend. In the first session, new members **Mike Silva, Sam Ahn, Eric Silberfein and David Young** all presented outstanding papers.

**Treasurer Ross Reagan** and **President Ed Duncan** then recognized the 2013 fall class of [Raleigh Ross Scholars](#). Recipients were introduced by their Department Chair or Residency Program Director. The scholars are guests of the Society and receive a personalized plaque noting their accomplishments and also receive a monetary award. Recognized were:

**Hans Tulip**

UT Southwestern - Dallas

**Sarah Weakley**

Baylor College of Medicine - Houston

**Eric Sceusi**

UT Houston Medical School - Houston

**Melissa Kinney**

Baylor University Medical Center - Dallas

Following presentation of the Raleigh Ross Scholars, President S. Edwin Duncan introduced the honored guest speaker, **Dr. John R. Potts, Senior Vice-President for Surgical Accreditation at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**. **Dr. Potts** delivered an educational talk entitled “The Alphabet Soup of Surgical Education.” Dr. Potts’ well-received address was comprehensive, and illuminating regarding the milieu of modern surgical residency accreditation and administration.

The Executive Session began at 5:15 p.m. with **President S. Edwin Duncan** presiding.

Minutes of the previous meeting in Temple were unanimously approved.

**Ross B. Reagan** presented the Treasurer's report. As of June 30, 2013, the balance in the general fund was \$200,230.79. The Speakers' Fund has a balance of \$55,232.00. Gifts to the Speaker's Fund are appreciated and may be sent to the Treasurer or Secretary. As of June 30 2013, the Raleigh Ross TSS Scholarship fund had assets totaling \$2,510,307.81. Dr. Reagan presented a great overview of the scholarship fund. The Raleigh Ross Trust was established by Dr. Raleigh Ross, the 59<sup>th</sup> 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 eight training programs. These eight training programs include Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas A&M University Health Science Center/Scott and White in Temple, Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Lubbock, the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Each grant for 2013 was \$10,500. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by the membership.

The Raleigh Ross Trust members and the TSS Council unanimously recommended expansion of the Raleigh Ross Scholars program to include three additional residency programs: Methodist Hospital System in Houston, Texas Tech University Health Science Center in El Paso and the UT Southwestern Austin Residency in Austin. This expansion was announced at the

business meeting. This expansion was warmly received by the members in attendance.

### Memorial tributes were read for:

William D. Barnett



1928-2013

Carl R. Coers III



1934-2013

Ronald P. Fischer



1936-2013

Walter Samuel Henly



1927-2013

Thomas D. Kirksey



1932-2013

William H. Kolter, Jr.



1927-2013

Marion R. Lawler, Jr.



1937-2013

Charles P. "Pat" Oles



1926-2013

Sellers J. Thomas, Jr.



1925-2013

**William B. Barnett** of Dallas  
(By Pat Thomas)

**Carl R. Coers, III** of Ft. Worth  
(By Lee Bloemendal)

**Ronald P. Fischer** of Houston  
(By Kamal Khalil)

**Walter S. Henley** of Houston  
(By Richard Geis)

**Thomas D. Kirksey** of Austin  
(By Ronald Stewart)

**William H. Kolter** of Waco  
(By Ronald Stewart)

**Marion R. Lawler, Jr.** of Harlingen  
(By Ronald Stewart)

**Charles P. "Pat" Oles** of Canyon  
(By Ronald Stewart)

**Sellers J. Thomas, Jr.** of Houston  
(By Laurens Pickard)

**The Secretary then gave the report of the Council.** Updates were given regarding plans for the El Paso meeting. Plans regarding the Centennial Meeting in Galveston were discussed. Dr. Kristene Gugliuzza will serve as **LAC**. He gave a brief report on the plans for the Centennial Meeting. The Council received a report from an ad hoc committee led by Dr. Charles McCollum and Dr. John O'Brien regarding membership. This report was presented by Drs. O'Brien and McCollum at the council meeting. The recommendations were considered and extensively discussed by the council. These recommendations will be used to guide the council on membership activities moving into the future. **Report of the Archivist** 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 **547 members**, of whom **140 are active, 375 are senior, 5 are honorary, 4 are distinguished and 27 are non-resident members**. There were **9 deaths** recorded since the last meeting. The increasing age of Society members was noted and the vital need to nominate quality surgeons was discussed. This was also a part of the ad-hoc committee on Membership, noted above. **Members are encouraged to propose candidates for membership who meet or exceed Society qualifications as outlined in the constitution and by-laws.**

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

**Barbara L. Bass** of Houston  
**Randy L. Morton** of Longview  
**Michael J. Reardon** of Houston

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

**DeEtte R. Vasques** of Fort Worth  
**Joe Johnston** of San Antonio  
**David L. Callender** of Galveston  
**Tammy Sartor** of Burnet  
**Anne Rizzo** of Wichita Falls  
**Lillian S. Kao** of Houston

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

**Candidates for fellowship were reviewed.** The following candidates who were up for first consideration were recommended for movement to second consideration: **Jayson D. Aydelotte, John Bawduniak, Brittany B. DeBerry, Brian J. Dunkin, Lillian F. Liao, Ricardo D. Martinez, Patrick Nguyen, Jill S. Stephenson, Kent R. Van Sickle, and Russell L. Woodard.**

The following candidates who were up for first consideration were recommended by the Council and unanimously approved for active fellowship by the members: **James W. Fleshman, Jr.** (Chair of Surgery at Baylor University Medical Center) and **Todd K. Rosengart** (Chair of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine).

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

**Daniel L. Dent** of San Antonio  
**Brian J. Eastridge** of San Antonio  
**Jeffrey S. Heinle** of Houston  
**Bryan D. Parrent** of Bryan  
**Daniel J. Scott** of Dallas

The Council reviewed in detail the meeting associated fees of audiovisual. The audiovisual costs were significantly reduced at the San Antonio meeting, but the service was poor 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. Dr. Stewart is also tasked to search for other options to better maintain the website, which still needs significant improvement.

The **Nominating Committee** report was presented by **Joseph Coselli**. **Alan H. Tyroch** was nominated for Council Member 2016. **Richard C. Frazee** was nominated for 2nd Vice President. **Robert W. Feldtman** was nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. A motion by Dr. Schwesinger was made to approve these nominations. This was seconded by Dr. Coselli. There was no further discussion and the nominees were unanimously approved by all in attendance. The nomination committee opted to delay formal presentation of the committee's nominee for President-elect until the following day. The meeting was adjourned.

The Friday evening cocktail buffet at the **Michael E. DeBakey Library & Museum at Baylor College of Medicine** was enjoyed by **179 members and guests**. Members and guests enjoyed an open bar, appetizers, dinner and were able to tour the museum. The hospitality of the the entire team from Houston was greatly appreciated. At the end of the event, there was a torrential rainstorm, but thanks to Dr. LeMaire and his team, we all made it safely back to the hotel.

At 7 a.m. Saturday morning **S. Edwin Duncan** presided over the **New Members' Breakfast**. Society officers and Council members welcomed four of the five 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 sixteen guests. **Brenda LeMaire** organized this fun outing. Spouses were transported to the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens of the Museum of Fine Arts.

The Saturday morning Scientific Session was opened by **President S. Edwin Duncan** at 7:30

a.m. Seven scientific papers were presented opening with a presentation by **Dr. Samuel K. Snyder**.

[New members](#) were introduced to the membership just prior to Saturday morning's recess by Second Vice-President, **Lee C. Bloemendal**. Receiving certificates and welcomed into the Society were:

**Samuel S. Ahn** of Dallas  
**John F. Eckford** of Round Rock  
**Eric J. Silberfein** of Houston  
**David L. Young** of Tyler

**Lori L. Pounds** of San Antonio was not able to attend and will receive her certificate at the upcoming meeting in El Paso.

The presentation of new members was followed by **Dr. S. Edwin Duncan's [Presidential Address](#)**, entitled *The Case for Need of Private Practice of Surgery in Texas for our Changing Medical Environment*. Dr. Duncan's address was educational, motivational and thought provoking.

The member guest luncheon was held at 11:45 a.m. with one hundred and fifty members and guests in attendance. **Steve Murdock** delivered an outstanding presentation titled "The Changing Demographic Landscape: How will it affect the Practice of Surgery in Texas". The members and guests thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Murdock's presentation. The discussion following the presentation led to the development of a draft statement and policy on non-discrimination to be considered by the Council at the El Paso meeting.

At 1:00 p.m. the Saturday afternoon Scientific Session convened with **First Vice-President, Samuel K. Snyder** presiding. Our guest speaker **John R. Potts, Senior Vice-President for Surgical Accreditation at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education** delivered an informative talk entitled "Why Johnny Can't Operate: The Need for Appropriate Resident Supervision". The meeting reconvened

in the afternoon, where papers from eight members were presented. Following the final scientific presentation, **Dr. Ed Duncan** called to order a special business session. **Dr. Hazim J. Safi** was nominated by the Nominating Committee for the position of President Elect. **Dr. Safi's** nomination was unanimously approved by those members in attendance. **Dr. Safi** was escorted to the podium where he was enthusiastically welcomed as the President-elect by Dr. Ed Duncan. The business meeting and the scientific session was adjourned.

Saturday evening cocktails and dinner were held in the Consort I Foyer of the hotel, with 211 members and guests in attendance. **Scott LeMaire**, local arrangements chair, presided over trophy presentations to the sporting event champions.

**President S. Edwin Duncan** hosted a memorable evening highlighted by guest speaker **Eben Alexander** who delivered an intriguing and very comprehensive address entitled "Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife."

**The James E. Thompson award** for best paper by a new member was awarded to Dr. David Young from Tyler for his presentation, "**Reptile Envenomation, Background, Anatomy and Management**". 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 Dr. Chuck Fraser from Houston.

Dr. Alexander hosted a book signing after his presentation and members and guests joined **President S. Edwin Duncan** [after dinner for coffee, dessert, and liqueurs](#).

The Ethics Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning in the Consulate Room of the hotel. **Jill McWhirter, JD** addressed the 59 attendees entitled "Navigating through the

Medical-Ethics Current". Her talk was a great educational and thought provoking summary of the challenging field of conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment. She was a great source of information, and she led an informative discussion on how best to navigate these issues.

The **next meeting** of the Society will be held in **El Paso, April 4-6, 2014**, at the **Marriott El Paso Hotel**. Local Arrangement Chair, Alan Tyroch, has planned a great meeting for members and their families. We anticipate offering approximately 12 hours of self assessment CME eligible for ABS MOC. 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](mailto:texassurgicalsociety@gmail.com).

**Again, please strongly consider nominating great young surgeons** in your local area for membership in the Texas Surgical Society.

Please email [texassurgicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:texassurgicalsociety@gmail.com) for any suggested corrections or edits to the newsletter/minutes.

**Photos from the meeting** taken by both myself and Chris Sherman, our AV provider, may be accessed at the following link:  
<http://rmstewartphotography.smugmug.com/Events/TSS-Texas-Surgical-Society/n-rHh6k>

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald M. Stewart, MD  
Secretary