



NEWSLETTER

and Society Minutes

TEXAS SURGICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2015



The 196th meeting of the Texas Surgical Society was held September 4-6, 2015 in Austin, Texas at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center under the direction of Local Arrangements Chair **Jack Walzel** and his wife **Shevawn Walzel**. **Jack, Shevawn and the entire Austin team, hosted a terrific meeting and fitting Centennial tribute.** Their coordinated efforts and the hospitality of the event chairs generated a wonderful experience for the 107 members and 31 guests who participated in the weekend activities. Dr. and Mrs. Walzel were truly exceptional in organization, hospitality and expertise.

On Friday morning **Jack Walzel** directed the golf tournament at the *Avery Ranch Golf Club* where **Tom Long** of **Decatur** was awarded the Brindley Cup Low Gross award. **Bill Turney** of **Waco** was awarded the Arlington Cup for Low Net. The Closest to the Pin award went to **Ross Reagan** of **Waco**.

Tennis under the direction of **Robyn Buckley** was held at the *Westwood Country Club*. **Jeff and Lynne Stoltenburg** of **Brenham** were once again awarded The Waco Cup!

John Eckford organized the sporting clay shooting event at *Capital City Trap and Skeet*. **David Young** of **Tyler** was another repeat winner of the Fort Worth Shooting Trophy.

Early Saturday morning **Francis Buckley** escorted our joggers to *Stephen F. Austin High School on Lady Bird Lake*. **Patrick Nguyen** from **San Antonio** was awarded the Raleigh R. White Trophy for being the best runner. **Stacey Milan** from **El Paso** received the award for form and style.

The first Scientific Session was called to order by **Secretary Ronald Stewart** at 1:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon. He introduced the LAC, **Jack Walzel** who welcomed the membership to Austin and informed them of the many events planned for the weekend. President Hazim Safi, who gratefully, is convalescing extremely well from a serious illness was able to preside over the first session. Seven outstanding papers were presented on Friday afternoon.

Treasurer Ross Reagan and **Secretary Ronald Stewart** then recognized the 2015 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:

Natalie Calcaterra

Baylor University Medical Center - Dallas

Salim Lala

UT Southwestern Medical Center - Dallas

Nicole Tapia

Baylor College of Medicine – Houston

Robert Hetz

UT Medical School – Houston

Feibi Zheng

Methodist Hospital – Houston

Jawad Ali

Dell UT Medical School

Following presentation of the Raleigh Ross Scholars, Secretary Ronald Stewart introduced the honored guest speaker, **Dr. Gregorio A. Sicard**, Professor of Surgery and Radiology and Executive Vice Chairman, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. **Dr. Sicard** delivered an educational talk entitled "Treatment of Carotid Disease: What is the Best Option?" This provided an excellent overview and detailed recommendations regarding a complex and evolving topic.

The Executive Session began at 5:15 p.m. with **Dr. Safi** presiding. Minutes of the previous meeting in Galveston were unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by **Ross B. Reagan**. Financial compilations from the accountant for the six-month period ending 6/30/2015 were presented. The balance in operating account was \$208,712.52 and in LAC account \$53,766.50. Total in the Centennial accounts was \$453,887.48. The Speakers Fund has been closed and those assets mingled with Centennial funds. The Society has no liabilities. Net income for the period was \$354,371.71 which included Centennial gifts of \$253,337.35 and grants from industry for the Galveston meeting of \$20,000. The financial status of the Society has improved dramatically with the dues increase which took effect in 2013 and the success of the Centennial Campaign.

The Raleigh Ross Trust had assets on 6/30/2015 of \$2,824,092.59 and no liabilities. Grants to each of the eleven participating residency programs for 2015 are \$9,650. At year end 2015, total grants to the programs since inception of the Ross Grant program will be \$546,325.

Per Council decision, an audit of the financial records for 2015 will be done and, in view of the size of the assets now, stricter reviews and audits will be done annually going forward.

Memorial tributes were read for:

Arthur S. McFee



1932-2015

Jerry L. Sims



1931-2015

Arthur S. McFee of San Antonio
(By Ronald M. Stewart)

Jerry L. Sims of McKinney
(By Ronald M. Stewart)

The Secretary then gave the report of the Council. He discussed the status of the Centennial Meetings. He gave an overview of updates to the TSS Website and the strategic direction provided by the Council. The Website is significantly improved and the Council has approved and directed the Secretary to integrate the TSS Database and Directory into the website. The Society will be moving to integrated electronic abstract submission, electronic verification of attendance, and automatic CME certificate generation for Category 1 and Self Assessment CME. Additionally, the Secretary will move to all electronic communication by the end of Dr. Stewart's term, in one year.

Current membership statistics were reviewed. There are **558 members**, of whom **136 are active, 384 are senior, 5 are honorary, and 33 are non-resident members.** There were **2 deaths** recorded since the last meeting. The importance of nominating excellent, young surgeons was encouraged. Dr. Stewart commented on the excellent quality and participation by our new members, remarking on the quality of the new member papers. **Members are encouraged to not only propose candidates for membership who meet or exceed Society qualifications as outlined in the constitution and by-laws, but to be actively engaged in looking for these surgeons.**

Steven L. Cox of Livingston was **elevated to senior** status.

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

Bidhan Das of Houston
Teresa R. Kroeker of Austin
Damon A. Mimari of San Antonio
Donald A. Stewart of Waco
Samual R. Todd 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:

James Adams of Midland
Paul Carlton, Jr. of College Station
Geoffrey A. Funk of Southlake
Josh Goldstrich of College Station
Don Lesslie of Houston

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

Farshid Araghizadeh of Houston
Samuel Campbell of Lubbock
Brian Davis of El Paso
Sharmila Dissanaik of Lubbock
Glen Garner of Houston
Ronald New of Austin
Laura O'Halloran of Tyler
Charles West of Houston

The **Nominating Committee** report was presented by **Clifford Buckley**. **Robert Kingman** was nominated for Council Member 2018. **Jack Walzel** was nominated for 2nd Vice President. **Tony Estrera** was nominated for 1st Vice President. **Shannon Smith** was nominated for Secretary. **Ross Reagan** was nominated for

President-Elect. Dr. Reagan was escorted to the podium by Shelton Viney and Ed Duncan. A motion by Dr. Sykes was made to approve these nominations. This was seconded by Dr. Pickard. There was no further discussion and the nominees were unanimously approved by all in attendance.

The Friday evening cocktail dinner at the **Blanton Art Museum** was enjoyed by **161 members and guests**. Members and guests enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner and some extraordinary artwork. The hospitality of the entire team from Austin was greatly appreciated.

At 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning **Hazim Safi** presided over the **New Members' Breakfast**. Society officers and Council members welcomed ten of the eleven new members, presented them with copies of books recording the history of the Society and shared glimpses of Society tradition.

Fourteen members attended the **Women in Surgery Breakfast** which will now be a regularly scheduled event.

The Saturday spouse activity was attended by 17 guests. Spouses were treated to "The Real Austin Tour" followed by lunch at the Driskill Hotel.

The Saturday morning Scientific Session was opened by **President Hazim Safi** at 8:00 a.m. Ten scientific papers were presented in the morning session.

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

Ali Azizzadeh of Houston
Sherilyn Gordon Burroughs of Houston
William Fisher of Houston
Rohan Jeyarajah of Dallas
Sandeepa Musunuru of Midland
Richard Peterson of San Antonio

Michael Truitt of Dallas
Michael Choti of Dallas
Douglas Tyler of Galveston

Aaron Stike and **Reagan Viney** of Midland were unable to attend and will receive their certificates at the next meeting.

The member guest luncheon was held at noon with 93 members and guests in attendance. Dr. Jim Donovan, Vice Dean and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Round Rock, provided a thought provoking presentation on “**The State of Medical Education in Central Texas**.” Dr. Donovan entertained questions from members following the presentation. Dr. Clay Johnston, inaugural dean of the Dell Medical School, was unable to attend.

At 1:00 p.m. the Saturday afternoon Scientific Session convened with **First Vice-President, Michael J. Dragun** presiding. Our guest speaker **Dr. Gregorio A. Sicard**, delivered an informative talk entitled “Treatment of Peripheral Vascular Disease: Facts, Fiction and Market Forces”.

The meeting reconvened in the afternoon and presentations from ten members were given before the scientific session adjourned.

Saturday evening cocktails and dinner were held at the hotel, with **124** members and guests in attendance. **Jack Walzel**, local arrangements chair, presided over trophy presentations to the sporting event champions.

While members and their guests enjoyed their dinner, ten of their children participated in our inaugural Kids Movie Night, where they enjoyed pizza, snacks, games and movies, and were chaperoned by local YMCA staff.

President Hazim Safi hosted a memorable evening highlighted by guest speaker, Dr. L. Maximilian Buja who spoke on “**Operating on a Moving Organ and Its Distributing Vessels:**

The Daring Surgeons Who Revolutionized Medicine: An Historical Perspective.

The James E. Thompson award for best paper by a new member was awarded to **Ali Azizzadeh** from Houston for his presentation, *Modern Management of Acute Type B Aortic Dissection*. 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 **Laurens Pickard** of Houston.

Members and guests enjoyed coffee, dessert and liqueurs after dinner in a relaxed and casual setting.

The Ethics Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning. **Jon Porter, J.D.**, a local attorney in Austin, addressed 39 attendees with an informative talk entitled “Texas Medical Board: Process, Procedure, Legal and Ethical Considerations”.

The **next meeting** of the Society will be held in **Waco, April 1-3, 2016**, at the Hilton Waco Hotel. Local Arrangements Chair, **John Bawduniak**, and **President Lee Bloemendal** are planning a great meeting for members and their families. Please mark your calendars!

Please review 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.

And again, please actively consider nominating great young surgeons in your local area for membership in the Texas Surgical Society.

Lastly, please email stewartr@uthscsa.edu for any suggested corrections or edits to the newsletter/minutes.

Photos from the meeting taken by the Secretary and Chris Sherman are at the following link:

<http://smu.gs/115Y3kl> .

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald M. Stewart, MD
Secretary