



**TEXAS SURGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
and  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
SPRING 2018**



The 202nd meeting of the Texas Surgical Society was held April 6-8 in Houston at the beautiful Houstonian Hotel under the direction of **Local Arrangements Chair Tony Estrera and his wife Vicky**. Their coordinated efforts generated an excellent experience for attendees. One-hundred and twenty members, 5 Raleigh Ross Scholars and 77 guests registered for the Scientific Sessions. Fourteen spouses attended social activities, for a grand total of 202 participants at this meeting.

**On Thursday April 5, the Council met** for its traditional afternoon session prior to the meeting.

**On Friday morning, sporting events took place: Don Gibson directed the Golf Tournament** at the Wildcat Golf Club for 13 golfers. **Mac Sykes** received the **Brindley Cup – Low Gross award**. The **Arlington Cup for Low Net** was presented to **Mike Dragun**. **Matt Jordan** received the **Long Drive award**; **Kent Van Sickle** won **Closest to the Hole**.

**Stuart Harlin directed Sporting Clay Shooting at the American Shooting Center**. There were 13 participants; **Bob Lovett** again took the trophy followed closely by **David Young and John Winter** who tied for second place.

**Steve Eisenberg directed the Tennis Tournament onsite at the Houstonian Club**. The **Waco Cup** was recommended to go to **Steve and Renee Weatherford**, repetitive winners!

**Trey Miller directed seven runners onsite** on the Houstonian's trail; **Bruce Applebaum** was awarded the **San Antonio Cup for speed**; the **Raleigh White III Award** for style and dedication during the event went to **Lauren Picard**.

**Sheila Coogan directed a Cooking Class** for nine participants at Central Market. This was a novel event for the Society and was extremely popular; thanks to Sheila for planning and directing it!

**The First Scientific Session began Friday at 1:00 pm with the passing of the gavel from past President Ross Reagan to President Ronny Stewart**. Dr. Reagan presented some of the very interesting highlights of Ronny's career and life with his wife Sherri. **President Ronny Stewart proceeded to moderate this first session**. He welcomed attendees and introduced the LAC, **Tony Estrera**, who reviewed the social event itinerary with attendees. The session proceeded well with ten member presentations as well as the first of two by our **Scientific Guest Speaker, Eileen Bulger from Seattle, WA**.

**The Raleigh Ross Scholar Program was reviewed by President Ronny Stewart**. The Scholars for this meeting were introduced by their respective academic program representatives. The Scholars are guests of the Society and receive a personalized plaque noting their accomplishments as well as a monetary award. Five scholars were recognized:

**Andres Leal**

Texas Tech University HSC-Lubbock

Presented by Ari Halldorsson

**Carissia Calvo**

UT Health Science Center-San Antonio

Presented by Ronny Stewart

**Katherine Gonzalez**

Texas A&M Univ. HSC (Scott & White)-Temple

Presented by Scott Thomas

**Fredrick Bohanon**

UT Medical Branch-Galveston

Presented by Ravi Radhakrishnan  
**Cesar Ricci**  
Texas Tech University HSC-El Paso  
Presented by Brian Davis

**President Stewart introduced our Guest Scientific Speaker, Eileen Bulger from Seattle, WA.** Her first presentation entitled “Management of Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections: What’s New?” was given.

Mac Sykes concluded the Friday session presenting the portrait painting of Dr. Reuss, one of the original Society Founders. The beautiful painting was donated to the Society by his surviving family members and will be proudly placed in the archives in Galveston.

**The Executive Session began at approximately 5:45 p.m. with a Call to Order by President Ronny Stewart.** Minutes of the previous Executive Session in San Antonio were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer Dick Frazee gave the Treasurer’s Report.** Current Financial Statements were concisely reviewed. The Society remains in a strong financial position. Total assets of the Society were \$953,338.97, which reflects a \$115,909.59 increase from the prior year. This increase is represented by donations to the Centennial Campaign. The Centennial Campaign has assets of \$732,239.95, and the membership is to be complemented for their support. The Centennial Book written by Mac Sykes has been completed and published in hard cover. Society members who have donated at least \$2015 to the Centennial Campaign will receive a complementary copy. Books may be purchased for \$50 to members and \$100 to non-members. Shipping will be handled by Ross Reagan; shipping costs will be borne by the purchaser.

The Raleigh Ross Trust was reported on and has assets of \$3,325,134.34 in the Vanguard Wellington Fund. As a result of this, an award of \$10,200 was given to each of the five recognized programs for Spring 2018.

The spending assumptions for the Society for the next year were reviewed as required by the IRS. We hope to continue aggressive monitoring of meeting expenses and try diligently to decrease costs in order to defray the Society’s ongoing significant spending deficit. A review of meeting expenses for the prior four years reflects an apparent trend toward increasing expenses. This trend was reviewed by the Council and if expenses continue to reflect an ongoing cash deficit, additional revenue will be required. This issue was opened for discussion by the membership and a proposal for a registration fee for meetings was submitted. A meeting registration fee has advantages for many members in that it is potentially deductible as a business expense or is more readily reimbursed by academic Departments of Surgery as an educational expense. The Council will take this recommendation under advisement.

**The Texas Surgical Society continues to use email for correspondence to the membership; the treasurer stressed the fact that it is the responsibility of the members to update their contact email changes online in the roster on our website and notify the secretary and treasurer of the change!** Annual dues are payable by the first day of the first meeting of the year. Members will receive an invoice for dues via email at the first of each year. A second email reminder will be sent out prior to the meeting. A proposal was submitted from the floor that it would be helpful to have a “dues status” on the website for members to reference. This will be investigated with our website manager. Members in arrears are subject to forfeiture of membership. If any members have an opportunity to contact the following members regarding dues in arrears, please do so!

Jason Fleming  
Daniel J Johnson  
Daniel J. Scott  
Patrick Shovlin  
Phillip Sutton  
Frank Brunicardi

The council determined that if there was no response by members in arrears within 30 days of the business meeting, their memberships will likely be terminated.

**Secretary Shannon Smith gave her report and the Report of the Council.** A pertinent current and future meeting overview was given. We had 120 member attendees at this meeting and 77 invited guests. The ACS has approved 12 hours of CME for this meeting, 10.25 of which is Self-Assessment and 1.0 of which qualifies as Ethics. Reminder cards containing the electronic link for attendees to obtain CME for this meeting were dispersed at the registration desk at time of check-in. **Members must have been a registrant and in attendance during the Scientific Sessions to be given electronic permission to obtain CME for the meeting!** The ACS-imposed CME date of availability and CME obtaining deadlines were reviewed.

**Future meeting dates, locations, LACs were confirmed as follows:**  
**Fall 2018 Ft Worth, Worthington Hotel**  
Doug and Pat Lorimer  
**Spring 2019 Edinburg**  
Rick Martinez  
**Fall 2019 Galveston**  
Colleen and Mike Silva  
**Spring 2020 Tyler**  
David Young

The Stop the Bleed and History of Surgery Exhibits were again present in the lobby outside the Scientific Sessions; these exhibits are anticipated to follow every meeting for now.

**Our electronic transition is ongoing;** our website manager, Kevin McNally with **Interactive Palette** still seems to be excellent to work with and is consistently responsive to our needs. The electronic Call for Abstracts, Hotel and Meeting Registration, Candidate Voting, Program publication and obtaining of CME are all proceeding with increasing ease and efficiency, still with some minor corrections needed by the website manager. We are grateful

to members' patience in transitioning to electronic communications and various functions.

**Members were reminded again to peruse the TSS website and look for announcements and meeting information there.**

**Members were reminded again to make certain that their contact info is correct in the Roster: If you need to make corrections, you must log in with the email which is currently listed in the Roster, even if it is incorrect, and change it and/or any other information to correct it!**

**To log in to members only section of website:**  
**UN is your email as listed in roster**  
**PW is your DOB in this format: YYYY-MM-DD**

**Also, if you are not receiving our emails, add [ssmith@eyesoftexas.us](mailto:ssmith@eyesoftexas.us) to your safe sender list!**

**We are committed to our goal for an all-electronic communication strategy for members and the semi-annual meetings!**

Directions for connecting to WiFi onsite during the meeting were given.

Chris and Heather Sherman were unable to provide A-V services for this meeting due to another meeting conflict. We used the **Hotel A-V services** at a **SIGNIFICANT cost savings** for this meeting and the secretary inserted one of her team members to help the Hotel technicians for some **intermittent difficulties which could have been avoided with more timely submission of presentations by presenters, proper video saving and embedding technique and with fair warning to the A-V technician if the presentation was created on a MAC!** We will clearly outline these issues for all presenters well prior to submission deadline for all meetings, in order to avoid show problems!

**There are still ongoing Council discussions regarding the critical need to contain cost of meetings while preserving quality of venue**

**and food.** We used a ticket system at this meeting for hotel accountability of alcoholic drinks consumption. We may possibly advance to charging for the drink tickets separately from food tickets in order to more fairly distribute cost of events to members. Ross Reagan and Dick Frazee are working diligently to help analyze historical and current costs and make recommendations for aggressive meeting cost control in order to decrease our ongoing spending deficit.

**The report of the Council was given by Secretary Shannon Smith.** The council is currently chaired by Tony Estrera. The council continues to discuss the critical importance of meeting cost savings. Creative and less expensive non-hotel event venues with our own private alcohol supply, the possibility of industry support and a meeting registration fee were all discussed as significant savings measures.

**Mac Sykes' Council Report of the Archivist and Archivist Emeritus was reviewed:** Mac's 100-year book on the Society was ready for distribution at this meeting! Also, he detailed the fact that the beautiful portrait painting of one of the Society's founders, Dr. Reuss, having been generously donated by his surviving family, was on display outside the Scientific Sessions. The Society is very grateful to Dr. Reuss' family for their benevolent donation.

**Membership Demographics** were reviewed: as of this meeting the Society has 525 members, 123 of whom are active, 364 of whom are senior, 5 are honorary, 33 are nonresident. 212 are classified as general surgery. The Council maintains ongoing ardent discussion regarding the critical **importance of building active membership in the Society.** It is still the consensus that members' efforts in nominating qualified candidates in their respective communities is the most effective means of reaching this goal! Also, society members in communities where Raleigh Ross Scholars have been practicing and are qualified for membership, should act as "champions" of these

potential members and help expedite their inclusion in the Society! Furthermore, academic programs with access to young surgeons should have good luck introducing potential new members when they discuss them in regular meeting settings. And, it was suggested again that reviewing ACS Texas member listings might prompt consideration of those likely qualified potential members.

We want to continue to refine the electronic new member nominating process on the website, so that members and candidates can work together to complete the application process efficiently.

**The following 8 members were elevated to senior status:** David Kerns, Frederick Langner, Colleen Silva, Catherine Ronaghan, Luis Fernandez, Francisco Cigarroa, Shannon Smith and Ken Sirinek.

**We inducted 11 new members to the society at this meeting,** including John Birbari, Sam Buchanan, Ramon Cestero, Robert Esterl, Charles Jordan, Jonathan Lundy, Joseph Mills, Alberto Pena, Roger Allen Smith, David Sugarbaker and Mark Davies.

**Five complete new member applications will be moved to the next ballot;** these include Kim de la Cruz, Steve Bynon, Brian Philip Perry, William Brian Perry and Claire Isbell.

**Vote sheet candidates for membership were reviewed.**

**The following candidates will be advanced from first to second consideration:** Kris Charlton-Ouw, John Goss, Kenneth Jastrow, Tuyen Nguyen, Philip Rascoe, James Turlington and John Williams.

**The following candidate was recommended by the Council to be advanced from second consideration to Society membership:**  
Jose Almeda

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## **Memorial tributes were read for:**

**Valerie Wright**  
(by Bill Peper)  
**Grady Hallman**  
(by Joe Coselli)  
**Spencer Rowland**  
(by John Etlinger)  
**Cliff Buckley**  
(by Bob Feldtman)  
**James Mathews**  
(by Shannon Smith)  
**Hylmar Karbach**  
(by Mark Kneuper)  
**John Sewell**  
(by John Freese)

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**The Nominating Committee met and discussed nominations for the Fall.**

**The Executive Session was adjourned.**

**The Friday evening cocktail buffet was held onsite at the historical Manor House on the grounds of the Houstonian Hotel.** It was an excellent venue **attended by 197 members and guests.** All enjoyed beautiful weather, an open bar and a delicious buffet dinner.

**President Stewart and President-Elect John Winter along with Society officers and Council members presided over the New Members' Breakfast** onsite at 6:30 am on Saturday in the Cedar room. They welcomed 9 new members, John Birbari from Fort Worth, Sam Buchanan from Weatherford, Ramon Cestero from San Antonio, Robert Esterl from San Antonio, Charles Jordan from College Station, Jonathan Lundy from Fort Hood, Joseph Mills from Houston, Alberto Pena from Edinburg and Roger Smith from Round Rock. All were presented with copies of books recording the history of the Society and shared glimpses of Society tradition.

**The Women in Surgery Breakfast** in the Cottonwood room at the same time on Saturday morning was attended by 3 members and 2 guests.

**The Saturday spouse activity** was attended by 14 guests. **Vicky Estrera organized and hosted this event** at the Contemporary Craft/Toulouse Café and Bar.

**The Saturday morning Scientific Session** was opened by **President Stewart** promptly at 8:00 a.m. This session included nine presentations, five of which were by new members. Sam Snyder had had a recent fall and postponed his presentation until the next meeting. Ken Mattox also postponed his presentation until the next meeting. **Second Vice-President William Shutze presented the new members listed above.**

**The member guest luncheon** was held in ballrooms near the Scientific Session. **President Stewart presented "Sutherland Springs Church Shooting-11/05/2017"**. One-hundred and four members and guests were entertained by this stimulating discussion. **Tony Estrera** presided over trophy presentations to the sporting event champions.

**The Saturday afternoon Scientific Session** convened at 1:20 pm with **First Vice-President Ken Sirinek** presiding. Guest speaker **Eileen Bulger** delivered her second presentation entitled **"Lessons Learned from the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network"**. Presentations from seven members were presented during this last session, one of which was by a new member.

**Saturday evening cocktails, the Presidential Banquet and Reception** were held in Ballrooms and the Hearth Room onsite. One-hundred and fifty members and guests were in attendance for the Banquet. **President Stewart introduced Mac Sykes as the speaker for the evening; Mac delivered a truly delightful and entertaining account of "Brief Backstories of the Book"**.

**The James E. Thompson Award for best paper by a new member** was presented to two

new members who tied for the award; **Jonathan Lundy** for “Feasibility of Whole Blood First for Damage Control Resuscitation: Experience from Special Operations Surgical Team” and **Alberto Pena** for “Complete Clinical Response after Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation for Rectal Cancer: Should We Watch and Wait?”.

**The Presidential Award for Discussion** was awarded to **Declan Fleming**.

**Members and guests joined President Stewart in the beautiful Hearth Room** after dinner for cocktails and socializing at the **President’s Reception**.

**Kids’ Movie Night** was held during the Banquet and Reception in the Teak Room; it was chaperoned and attended by 5 children.

**The Ethics Breakfast** was held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning in the Juniper room; **Eugene Boisubin** gave an excellent presentation on “Ethical and Professional Dilemmas for Surgeons During the American and Civil War”; 48 attendees were present.

**The upcoming Fall Society Meeting will be held in Ft. Worth, Oct 5-7 at the Worthington Hotel. Local Arrangements Chair Doug Lorimer and his wife Pat are planning a great meeting at this popular, vibrant venue for members and their families and guests. Mark your calendars!**

Please email me at [ssmith@eyesoftexas.us](mailto:ssmith@eyesoftexas.us) for any suggested corrections or edits to this communication!

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Secretary, Texas Surgical Society