



**TEXAS SURGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
and  
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
FALL 2019**



The 205th meeting of the Texas Surgical Society was held October 4-6 in Galveston at the Tremont House Hotel downtown, under the direction of **Local Arrangements Chair Team Colleen and Mike Silva**. 185 members, 5 Raleigh Ross Scholars and 7 guests registered for the Scientific Sessions.

**On Thursday October 3, the Council met** for its traditional afternoon session prior to the meeting.

**On Friday morning, sporting events took place: Courtney Townsend directed the Golf Tournament** at Moody Gardens Golf Course for 16 golfers. **Leigh Taliaferro** received the **Brindley Cup – Low Gross award**. The **Arlington Cup for Low Net** was again presented to **Bradford Scott**.

**Patrick Walker hosted Sporting Clay Shooting at Texas City Municipal Shooting**. There were 18 participants; **David Young took the trophy**.

**Patrick and Marilyn Walker coordinated the Tennis Tournament at the UTMB Tennis Courts** for 5 participants. The **Waco Cup** went to **Jeff and Lynne Stoltenberg** as the men's and women's winners respectively.

**On Saturday morning, Mike Silva led 11 runners through the historic East End of Galveston and Seawall; Nathaniel Giles took the San Antonio Cup for speed; the Raleigh White III Award for style and dedication went to Joseph Karam.**

**The First Scientific Session began Friday at 1:00 pm with the call to order by President John Winter, IV, who moderated the session in the Davidson Ballroom Annex of the hotel. He introduced the LAC team who reviewed the social**

**event itinerary. The session proceeded with five member presentations followed by presentation of five Raleigh Ross Scholars; the Scholar Program was introduced by the President. The Scholars are guests of the Society and receive a personalized plaque as well as a monetary award. The Scholars introduced at this meeting included:**

**Audra Clark**

UTSW-Dallas

Presented by Kareem Abdelfattah

**Eric Rachlin**

BCOM-Houston

Presented by Brad Scott

**Margaret Jackson**

UT Houston

Presented by Sasha Adams

**Elisa Furay**

Dell UT Austin

Presented by Tripp Buckley

**Alex Garza**

UT Rio Grande Valley

Presented by Sam Snyder

**Our Guest Scientific Speaker, Larry Hollier from New Orleans, gave his presentation entitled “Charity Hospital: Memories of a Surgical Resident”.**

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**The Executive Session began at approximately 4:45 p.m. with a Call to Order by the President. Minutes of the previous Executive Session were unanimously approved.**

**Treasurer Dick Frazee gave the Treasurer's Report.** The assets of the Texas Surgical Society were \$900,895 which reflected a \$12,000 increase from 2018. This increase was due to an increase in the Centennial Fund of over \$56,000 while operating funds decreased by \$37,000. While the reserves of the Texas

Surgical Society remain healthy, the ongoing trend of meeting expenses exceeding revenue was discussed again at the Council and an ad hoc committee appointed to study this trend. The Raleigh Ross Trust had funds of \$3,394,158 which represented a \$244,000 increase from 2018.

Dr. Lillian Kao was selected by the nominating committee as the new Treasurer and will begin that role in 2020. The mailing address for the treasurer and the Society will be 6341 Fannin Street, MSB 4.264, Houston, TX 77030. Dr. Frazee thanked the Society for the opportunity to serve as treasurer.

**The Raleigh Ross Trust financial reports** were given; the Trust assets were reviewed and are healthy. Trust awards were given to five recognized programs for Fall 2019, including the new addition of UTRGV to the program rotation.

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 will try diligently to decrease costs to defray spending deficits.

The Texas Surgical Society continues to use email for correspondence to the membership; the treasurer again stressed the fact that it is the responsibility of members to update their contact email changes online in the roster on our website and notify the secretary and treasurer of any changes.

**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. The online website dues status feature for each member has been removed and will be maintained by the treasurer. Members in arrears are subject to forfeiture of membership.

**Secretary Shannon Smith gave her report:**

A current and future meeting overview was given. The ACS approved **12.25 hours of Category 1 CME for this meeting, 1.0 of which qualifies as Ethics. Members must have been a meeting registrant and in attendance during the Scientific Sessions (confirmed by having signed the attendance book each day) to be given electronic permission to obtain CME for the meetings!** The ACS-imposed date of CME availability and CME obtaining deadlines were reviewed.

**Members were again strongly encouraged always to book rooms for each meeting through the TSS block of rooms, or with the hotel directly, as opposed to third party vendors, ie, online vendors. Third party-reserved rooms do NOT go toward our hotel-contracted room nights minimum; this costs the Society dearly in hotel financial penalty costs.**

**Future meeting dates, locations, LACs were confirmed as follows:**

Spring 2020: April 3-5, Tyler, David Young

Fall 2020: Oct16-18, Dallas, Michael Truitt

Spring 2021: April 9-11, Austin, Declan Fleming and Tripp Buckley

**The History of Surgery Exhibit** was again on display outside the Scientific Sessions; it will follow every meeting for now.

**Our electronic transition is ongoing;** New Member Applications are active on the online LINK, separate from the website. The process for New Member Applications is as follows: the Secretary sends the member sponsor and/or the applicant the LINK for the online app with instructions for completion and submission. We hope to correct missing new member roster photos at the time of the next roster printing Spring 2020. We are grateful for your patience in our electronic transition.

**Members were reminded to peruse our website and look for announcements and meeting information there; also to make certain 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. Feel free to add an updated photo as well.**

**To log in to the Members Only website section:**

**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 and please call the Secretary at 936-564-3600 to give updated information if you are unable to do so online.**

Chris and Heather Sherman were again able to provide superb A-V services for the meeting. **We want to continue to stress the need for timely submission of presentations by presenters prior to meetings, proper video saving and embedding technique and with fair warning to the A-V team 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.**

**The report of the Council was given by Secretary Shannon Smith.** The council is currently chaired by Michael Dragun. There are ongoing Council discussions regarding the critical need to contain cost of meetings while preserving quality of venue and food. We again used a ticket system at this meeting for hotel and other venue accountability of alcoholic drinks consumption; this is proving to be very effective at cost containment and accounting. We are tracking historical costs and meeting and events attendance headcounts in an attempt to control our ongoing spending deficit.

**Mac Sykes' Council Report of the Archivist and Archivist Emeritus was reviewed:** reminder: Mac Sykes' superbly written 101 year

book on the Society is free for all members who contributed \$2015 or more to the Centennial Fund, \$50 for other members, \$100 for nonmembers. It will be available for distribution at all meetings; we are hoping to avoid becoming a retail store at other times. Mac reminded us that our Society Archives are housed in Galveston at the well-funded Moody Library, under the direction of Medical Archivist Bobby Marlin, who is extremely helpful with pictures and presentations if needed over time. The Moody Library has been an excellent archival repository for Texas surgical historical information.

**Membership Demographics** were reviewed: Current statistics still indicate declining active membership and increasing senior membership. Eighty-five percent of membership is considered General Surgery. There are 517 members, 32 are non-resident, 4 are honorary. Member efforts in nominating qualified candidates in their respective communities is the most effective means of reaching the goal of building active qualified Society membership. Michael Dragun has researched current practice locations of previous Raleigh Ross Scholars; he produced a list which was disseminated to members; we will copy it to a mass Email to membership soon; please print it to have as a reference and consider sponsorship of qualified Scholars and other surgeons in your communities for Society membership!

The following **8 members** were elevated to senior status: **Todd Moffatt, Charles Beall, Tien Ko, Mike Silva, Louis Strock, David Callender and Scott Norwood.**

The following candidate was **recommended by Council to move from second consideration to new membership: the motion was made and approved by members:**

**Victor Jesus Olivas**

The following candidates were **motioned and approved by council to move from first to second consideration on the ballot sheet:**

**Rakhshanda Layeequr Rahman**

**Robyn Richmond**

**Three complete new member applications will be moved to the next ballot; these include Edward Martin Reece, Stephen Abernathy and Joseph Richard Karam.**

**Five new members were planned to be introduced to the Society at this meeting including W. Brian Perry, Michael Coburn, Brian Perry, Kim de la Cruz and Larry Hollier, Jr.** (Kim de la Cruz was not in attendance on Saturday due to an emergency; he will be presented at the next meeting.)

**Memorial tributes were read for:**

**Frank Spencer**

(by Todd Rosengart)

**William Johnston “Bill” Hills**

(by Curly Robinson)

**Addison “Ace” Thurman**

(by Lee Bloemendal)

**Hugh Lamensdorf**

(by Lee Bloemendal)

**Basil Pruitt, Jr.**

(by Ronny Stewart)

**Drue Ware**

(by Lillian Kao)

**The Nominating Committee motioned to elect and membership approved the following members for office:**

**Douglas “Curly” Robinson, President-Elect  
2021**

**Lillian Kao, Treasurer-Elect  
2020-2024**

**Tripp Buckley, First Vice-President  
Michael Foreman, Second Vice-President  
Jack Walzel, Council 2022**

**The Executive Session was adjourned.**

**The Friday evening cocktail buffet** was held at the 1887 Tall Ship Elissa and Texas Seaport Museum at Pier 21 on the Galveston Harbor; this was an excellent event; guests enjoyed cocktails,

delicious buffet supper and an open bar in mild weather.

**President Winter and President-Elect Courtney Townsend along with Council members presided over the New Members’ Breakfast** at 6:30 am on Saturday in Ann Milligan Gray at the hotel. They shared glimpses of Society traditions and each new member in attendance was presented with a complimentary set of books on the Society.

**The Women in Surgery Breakfast** in Samuel May Williams at the same time on Saturday morning was attended by 15 members and 1 Scholar guest.

**The Saturday spouse activity** was attended by 22 guests. The group toured the Bryan Museum and had lunch.

**The Saturday morning Scientific Session** was opened by **President Winter** at 8:00 a.m. This session included eight member presentations, four of which were by new members. **Second Vice-President Matt Wall introduced new members W. Brian Perry, Michael Coburn, Brian Perry and Larry Hollier, Jr. to the Society.**

**The buffet member guest luncheon** was held in the Scientific Session Ballroom. **Craig Miller presented “Dr. Michael DeBakey-His Time at Tulane and Training in Europe”.** Mike Silva presided over trophy presentations to the sporting event champions.

**The Saturday afternoon Scientific Session** convened at 1:00 pm with **First Vice-President Kristene Gugliuzza** presiding over the session. The **second presentation by Guest Speaker Larry Hollier, “An Endovascular Journey”**, was followed by nine member presentations.

**Saturday evening cocktails, the Presidential Banquet and Reception** were held in the Davidson Ballroom Annex and Reception areas. 132 members and guests were in attendance for the Banquet. **President Winter gave his address**

**entitled “The Long and the Short of It”.** This was an enjoyable presentation on the fascinating circumstances surrounding an American physician accused of assassinating Huey Long.

**The James E. Thompson Award for Best Paper by a new member** went to **W. Brian Perry** for his presentation entitled “Initial Management and Outcome of Modern Battlefield Anal Trauma”.

**The Presidential Award for Best Discussion** was awarded to **Shelton Viney**.

**Members and guests joined President Winter in the reception area after dinner** for cocktails, specialty chocolates and socializing.

**The Ethics Breakfast** was held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning in Sam Houston; **Patrick Byrne MB BCh BAO, MRCGP, MRCSEd, FRCP Edin. from Fort William, UK** gave a very personal, emotion-provoking presentation on **“Human Rights in Healthcare—Myth vs Reality in the Remote or Rural Setting”**; **49 attendees were present.**

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***Reminder: the upcoming Spring Society Meeting will be held in Tyler, April 3-5 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center (NOT to be confused with the Holiday Inn Express!) Local Arrangements Chair David Young is planning a great meeting and social events. Mark your calendars now!***

Email me at [ssmith@eyesoftexas.us](mailto:ssmith@eyesoftexas.us) for any suggested corrections to this communication.

Shannon Smith, Secretary