



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



The 204th meeting of the Texas Surgical Society was held April 5-7 in McAllen at the Casa De Palmas Hotel, under the direction of **Local Arrangements Chair Rick Martinez**. One-hundred and twenty-seven members, 5 Raleigh Ross Scholars and 25 guests registered for the Scientific Sessions.

On Thursday April 4, the Council met for its traditional afternoon session prior to the meeting.

On Friday morning, sporting events took place: Victor Haddad directed the Golf Tournament at the McAllen Country Club for 17 golfers. **Randy Smith** received the **Brindley Cup – Low Gross award**. The **Arlington Cup for Low Net** was presented to both **Scott Thomas** and **Leigh Taliafero** as a tie.

Alberto Pena hosted **Skeet Shooting at the Mission Skeet Club**. There were 11 participants that ended in a tie between **Bob Lubbock** and **Bob Feldtman** for the trophy.

Guillermo Perez coordinated the **Tennis Tournament at the McAllen Country Club** for 4 participants. The **Waco Cup** awards for men's and women's winners are still pending the LAC, Rick Martinez's confirmation.

On Saturday morning, Sam Snyder and his son-in-law participated in running in Saturday morning. Sam Snyder took home both the **San Antonio Cup** for speed and the **Raleigh White III Award** for style and dedication.

The **First Scientific Session** began **Friday at 1:30 pm** with a call to order by **Past President Ronny Stewart** and his passing of the gavel to our new **President John Winter**, who moderated the

session. He welcomed attendees and introduced the LAC Rick Martinez, who reviewed the social event itinerary. The session proceeded with four member presentations as well as presentation of the Raleigh Ross Scholars; the Scholar Program was introduced by President John Winter. The Scholars are guests of the Society and receive a personalized plaque as well as a monetary award. Four Scholars were introduced:

Pam Daher-Tobia

Dell UT Medical School - Austin
Presented by John Uecker

Jayne McCauley

Texas Tech Univ HSC - Lubbock
Presented by Catherine Ronaghan

Leah Chodroff-Stockton

UTHSC San Antonio
Presented by Daniel Dent

Ryan Adams

Texas A&M UHSC (Scott & White) - Temple
Presented by Scott Thomas

Hashim Hanif

Texas Tech UHSC – El Paso
Presented by Alan Tyroch

Rece Laney

UT Medical Branch – Galveston
Presented by Ravi Radhakrishnan

Cory McLaughlin

Baylor Univ Medical Center – Dallas
Presented by Shannon Smith for Bill Shutze

Our Invited Guest Scientific Speaker, Herbert Zeh, III from Dallas, presented “Robotic Surgery

for Pancreatic Disease: Improving Patient Outcomes and Surgical Education”.

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

Treasurer Dick Frazee gave the Treasurer’s Report. Society finances remain in good condition, but a concerning trend was reported to the membership. Cash reserves were down \$51,000 from 2017 to 2018. This is the second consecutive year that there was a significant deficit. The deficits are related to meeting expenses that exceed revenues from ticket sales. The ticket sales cover the expenses of the social events, but there are expenses of the meeting that include audiovisual services, speaker’s fees, meeting room charges, meeting refreshments, CME, etc. that are not covered by the ticket sales. These costs have risen steadily over the past several years.

Historically, the Society has paid for these expenses from dues revenue (after paying Society administrative costs). Dues revenue in 2018 was higher than the two preceding years, but our expenses have outpaced the increase in dues revenue by a significant amount. This concern was presented at Council, and after considerable discussion, a proposal to charge a \$200/meeting registration fee was presented to the membership. Discussion from the floor was directed toward cost containment rather than increased fees for members. Dr. Stewart made a motion to temporarily table the proposal for a registration fee, which was seconded and approved by the membership.

Cost containment measures have been implemented, and on assessment of the McAllen meeting have proven successful. This issue requires ongoing monitoring as we move from venues in smaller cities to those in larger cities which are typically associated with higher costs.

The Society balances and change from 2017 are shown below:

ASSETS/LIABILITIES	DEC 31, 2018	DEC 31, 2017	CHANGE
TSS ASSETS	\$111,580.01	\$163,460.19	(\$51,880.18)
TOTAL CENTENNIAL	\$712,509.07	\$711,495.68	(\$1,013.39)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$824,089.08	\$874,955.87	(\$50,866.79)

Members in arrears were presented. Payment of dues is late if not made by the first day of the Spring Meeting. The number of members who had not paid dues was up compared to the last two years. Dues notices go out by email at the beginning of the year and a second notice typically in March to those who have not responded.

The Society has made a concerted effort to go to electronic communication for both efficiency and cost containment. Please update your email and cell phone numbers in the members’ directory on the website texassurgical.org. If you have a change in either of these, please email the Treasurer at texassurgicalsocietytreasurer@gmail.com. Due to the large number of members that had not paid dues on time, paper letters were mailed to these members, and a committee of member volunteers are in the process of trying to reach members by phone. Thank you to those who have volunteered their time to help with this process. Please make every effort to pay your dues on time with the first email notification.

The Centennial Fund continues to receive contributions, although the pace has slowed considerably from the initial effort. Each year, 4% of the Centennial Fund is transferred into the operating account of the Texas Surgical Society.

Raleigh Ross Trust

ASSETS/LIABILITIES	DEC 31, 2018	DEC 31, 2017	CHANGE
RRT	\$3,105,378.87	\$3,325,134.34	(\$219,755.47)

The decrease in the RRT represents the drop in the stock market that occurred in December 2018. Fortunately, the market and the Wellington Fund have rebounded in the Spring. UTRGV was added to the residencies that receive grants from the RRT. This brings the

total to 12 surgical residencies in the state as beneficiaries.

With the addition of another program, the grants calculated for 2019 will be \$9000/program. Seven RRT scholars were presented at the McAllen meeting.

A motion was made for approval of the Treasurer's Report and the membership voted to approve.

Secretary Shannon Smith gave her report:

A current and future meeting overview was given. The ACS approved 11.75 hours of Category 1 CME for this meeting, 1.0 of which qualifies as Ethics (self-assessment is no longer required by MOC). **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 CME date of availability and CME obtaining deadlines were reviewed.

Also, members are 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:

- Fall 2019: Oct 4-6, Galveston, Colleen Silva
- Spring 2020: April 3-5, Tyler, David Young
- Fall 2021: April 9-11, Austin, Tripp Buckley
/Declan Fleming

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

Our electronic transition is proceeding; our website manager Kevin McNally with **Interactive Palette** has now added the ability to

complete **New Member Applications** online. Missing roster member photos are now current online; the printed roster will catch up at the time of the next printing for the Spring 2020 meeting. The Spring 2020 roster will also include the new completed **Members by Specialty. Members by cities lists have been corrected.** 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 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 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 to your safe sender list.

Chris and Heather Sherman were able to provide A-V services for this 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 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.**

The report of the Council was given by Secretary Shannon Smith. The council is currently chaired by Michael Dragun. The reports of LACs, the Treasurer and the archivist were given. Member meeting absences were reviewed: there will be one termination for lack of attendance and disinterest in continuing membership; we'll continue efforts to communicate with other members with absences,

the Society policy is to dismiss members with four consecutive absences.

Membership Demographics were reviewed: Current statistics still indicate declining active membership and increasing senior membership. Eighty-six percent of membership is considered General Surgery. There are 513 members, 33 are non-resident, 4 are honorary. Efforts in nominating qualified candidates in their respective communities is the most effective means of reaching the goal of building active membership. 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 Society membership.

The following 4 members were elevated to senior status: Boulos Toursarkissian, Dale Burleson, James Fleshman and Jeffrey Glass.

The following candidates were recommended by the Council to move from the vote sheets to new membership: the motion was made and approved by members:

**Michael Coburn
Larry Hollier Jr.
John Bynon
Kim de la Cruz
Brian Perry
William Perry**

The following candidate was recommended by the council to move from first to second consideration:

Victor Olivas

Three complete new member applications will be moved to the next ballot; these include Robyn Richmond, John Uecker and Rakhshanda Rahman.

The plan to introduce 9 new members to the society at this meeting was reviewed. These new members include **John Williams, Claire Isbell, Philip Rascoe, Kenneth Jastrow III, Tom Nguyen, Kristofer Charlton-Ouw, Jose**

Almeda, John Goss and James Turlington. John Goss and James Turlington were presented in absentia; John Goss did arrive in time to give his presentation Saturday afternoon.

Memorial tributes were read for:

Martin L. Dalton
(by Shelton Viney)

William Joel Hardin
(by Dick Frazee)

Gus Eckhardt
(by Kenny Jastrow)

Lee Lyman Dewey Tuttle
(by Charles McCollum)

David John Sugarbaker
(by Scott LeMaire)

The Nominating Committee announced the early nomination of Lillian Kao as Treasurer-Elect. The motion to elect her was approved by membership. She will work with Dick Frazee during his last transitional year as Treasurer to ease his move to a new location.

The Executive Session was adjourned.

The Friday evening cocktail buffet was held at the Museum of South Texas History. One-hundred and twenty-four members and guests enjoyed dinner and touring the museum.

President John Winter along with Society officers and Council members presided over the New Members’ Breakfast onsite at 6:30 am on Saturday in the Ruby Red I room. They shared glimpses of Society traditions.

The Women in Surgery Breakfast in the Royal Palm I room at the same time on Saturday morning was attended by 15 members.

The Saturday spouse activity was attended by 18 guests. The group toured the Quinta Mazatlan Bird Sanctuary. Sam Snyder's grandson Ryan Rodriguez, a locally renowned birding prodigy of the Rio Grande Valley, hosted the group for bird watching. They had lunch at the historic Patio on Guerra, followed by a visit to the Guerra's Nuevo Santander Gallery downtown.

The Saturday morning Scientific Session was opened by **President Winter** at 8:00 a.m. This session included nine presentations, seven of which were by new members. **Second Vice-President Matthew Wall** introduced new members to the Society.

The member guest luncheon was held in Royal Palm II and III. **Society member Kenneth Sirinek** presented "**The Left Handed Surgeon: Rare but not Extinct**". **Rick Martinez** presided over trophy presentations to the sporting event champions.

The Saturday afternoon Scientific Session convened at 1:00 pm with **Second Vice-President Kristene Gugliuzza** presiding. Herbert Zeh presented "Targeting Autophagy in Pancreatic Cancer". Nine member presentations were given during that session.

Saturday evening cocktails and the Presidential Banquet were held in the Royal Palm II & III. One-hundred and nineteen members and guests were in attendance for the Banquet. **Carlos Cardenas** presented "**Patient Care in the Wild Horse Desert: A Brief History of Medicine along the Texas-Mexico Border**".

The James E. Thompson Award for best paper by a new member went to Philip Rascoe for his presentation entitled "Clinical Spectrum of Presentation and Outcome of Esophageal Perforation Following Radiofrequency Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation".

The Presidential Award for Discussion was awarded to Ronny Stewart.

Members and guests joined President Winter in the Wine Room for a cognac tasting for the President's Reception. Members enjoyed socializing and superb cognac.

The Ethics Breakfast was held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning in Ruby Red II & III. **Rabbi Claudio Kogan** presented to 49 attendees.

Reminder: the upcoming Fall Society Meeting will be held in Galveston, October 4-6 at the Tremont House Hotel downtown. This is a beautiful historic hotel, make your reservations early!! Local Arrangements Chairs Colleen and Mike Silva are planning a great meeting at this seaside venue. Mark your calendars now!

Email me at ssmith@eyesoftexas.us for any suggested corrections to this communication.

Shannon Smith, Secretary