



TEXAS SURGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING 2020
NEWSLETTER/ONLINE “EXECUTIVE SESSION” NOTES
No Real-Time Executive Session due to
COVID-19 Pandemic, Meeting Cancelled



The 206th meeting of the Texas Surgical Society planned for April 3-5, 2020 in Tyler at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, was cancelled by Council which convened urgently on March 9, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Local Arrangements Chair David Young** had planned an excellent Tyler meeting and a superb Scientific Program had been composed and approved by the ACS at the time of cancellation. We hope to carry the Scientific Program forward to the Dallas meeting this Fall. We added a Spring Tyler Meeting to the rotation for 2023, for which we hope to carry forward all of David Young’s Social Event planning, including Kiepersol Winery for the Friday night cocktail buffet, the Tyler Rose Garden and Azalea Trail Tour for the Saturday Spouse Event, Willow Brook Country Club for the Presidential Banquet, President’s Reception and Golfing. Shooting was planned for at the 6S Ranch, Tennis was planned for at the Tyler Athletic and Swim Club, Running plans were still pending. Our Guest Scientific Speaker planned for the cancelled Tyler meeting was William Cioffi, M.D., Surgeon-in-Chief, University Surgical Associates, Inc., Providence, RI, titles pending. Our Member/Guest Luncheon speaker was planned to be LAC David Young: “The Downward Spiral of a Surgeon: a Case Study”. Our Ethics speaker was planned to be Douglas W. Curran, M.D.: “Access to Medicine in Texas, Does It Exist?”

The Raleigh Ross Scholars intended to be introduced at the cancelled Tyler meeting are listed here; they will be added to those presented at the upcoming meeting in Dallas in the Fall and their Program Grants will be deferred to that time:

Rushabh Dev
Tx Tech UHSC Lubbock
David Hockridge

UTHSC San Antonio

Chad Hall

Tx A&M UHSC Temple

Jennifer Perone

UTMB Galveston

William Klingsporn

Tx Tech UHSC El Paso

Katherine Wright

Baylor Univ Med Center Dallas

Catherine Hambleton Davis

Methodist Hospital Houston

These Minutes will be moved to be approved by Membership at the next Executive Session, as will those from the Fall 2019 Newsletter.

New Treasurer Lillian Kao’s Report: We thank Dr. Frazee for his work in safeguarding the funds and ensuring that the society continues to have adequate monies to maintain its mission. As a reflection of his excellent stewardship of the society’s funds, the society overspent only about \$5,000 compared to revenue last year. This is a significant improvement from spending in prior years.

Although the society is currently healthy financially, the society will have to closely watch the market given the Coronavirus pandemic. In the recent past, Dr. Frazee and the Executive Council have closely scrutinized expenditures at past meetings and instituted cost containment measures to continue to ensure the health of the society’s finances. Efforts are ongoing with the current leadership to optimize current spending. In addition, due to excellent negotiations by our Secretary, Dr. Shannon Smith, cancellation of the Spring Tyler meeting had only minimal impact on our bottom line. Deposits were largely refunded or are being held over for the next

meeting in Tyler. All registration payments should have been refunded. Please contact the treasurer if you have not received your refund if you paid for events at the Spring meeting. The operating funds of the society are bolstered by a 4% annual contribution from the Centennial Fund which was formed “to support the educational mission of the Texas Surgical Society.” Currently, the Centennial Fund has ~\$827K. Thank you to current and past contributors. Please contact the treasurer if you would like to make a recurring donation to the trust. Contributions are tax deductible. Last but not least, you should have received your dues invoice as well as a second email if unpaid. If not, dues were to be paid by the first day of the Spring meeting, which would have been April 3, 2020. All members who have not yet paid are considered to be in arrears. As a reminder, dues can be paid online on the Texas Surgical Society website (<https://www.texasurgical.org/online-payments/pay-dues/>) or by check. Annual dues are \$300 for active, in-state residents and \$150 for active, out-of-state residents. Annual dues are no longer required for senior members who are retired from practice or who are 72 years of age or older. Thank you to all the members for your prompt dues payments; the society is only able to maintain its financial health because of dues-paying members since no registration fees are charged for the meetings (except for social events). If you believe there is an error in your dues statement or if you have any additional questions, please notify the treasurer:
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Tel: (713) 500-6280
Email: texasurgicalsocietytreasurer@gmail.com
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The Raleigh Ross Trust financial reports:

Treasurer Lillian Kao: The Raleigh Ross Trust continues to award educational grants to 12 surgical residencies in Texas; each program grant is currently \$9,000. The trust’s assets are healthy, with a growth in funds by approximately \$500K

to \$3.6 million between December 31, 2018 and 2019.

The Spring awards will be deferred to the Fall meeting this year due to the cancellation of the Spring Tyler meeting on account of Coronavirus. Due to accounting difficulties with the transition of treasurers, the decision was made to move the Raleigh Ross Trust account from Wells Fargo Bank to Central National Bank in Waco, Texas. The necessary paperwork is being processed, and two Trustees will be granted transaction authority – the Archivist (currently Mac Sykes) and the Treasurer (currently Lillian Kao).

Secretary Shannon Smith’s report:

When physical meetings resume, all 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 2020: Oct 16-18, Adolphus, downtown, Dallas, Michael Truitt
Spring 2021: April 9-11, Westin, downtown, Austin, Declan Fleming and Tripp Buckley
Fall 2021: Oct 8-10, Hyatt Hill Country, San Antonio, Lillian Liao

Our electronic transition is progressing; our website manager is Kevin McNally with Interactive Palette. **Regarding New Member Applications**, we have by Council consensus removed the online requirement for **sponsor letters** to appear on the application; those **letters should be emailed directly to the Secretary**. The New Member **Candidates’ contact info should be given to the Secretary**, who will provide the applicants with the LINK for filling out the application and downloading their CV and their picture for the Roster. **The Secretary**

will present (complete) applications to Council for approval of those candidates being placed on the Vote Sheet.

Members please continue to assure your contact info is correct in the ROSTER: If you need to make corrections, you must log into the website with your 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 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.

The report of the Council is given here by Secretary Shannon Smith.

On Friday April 3, the Council convened via Zoom Video Conference online for its traditional Spring meeting. The council is currently chaired by Scott LeMaire.

Council approved all members being granted an “attendance” for the cancelled Tyler meeting, after which the attendance counts will start over for each member.

There are ongoing Council discussions regarding the critical need to contain cost of meetings while preserving quality of venue and food. **John Crawford will head an ad hoc committee to help track 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: Mac updated current storage

information for valuable Society books and other miscellaneous items.

Membership Demographics were reviewed by Council: Current statistics still indicate declining active membership and increasing senior membership. Eighty-five percent of membership is considered General Surgery. There are 510 members, 33 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. 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 **2 members** were elevated to senior status: **Todd Rosengart and Tammy Sartor.**

Three Vote Sheet Candidates were recommended by Council to move to membership and will be presented and voted on by Membership at the next real time Executive Session: **Stephen Wayne Abernathy** and **Joseph Richard Karam**, both from first consideration, **Robyn Elizabeth Richmond** from second consideration.

New members Victor Jesus Olivas and Kim de la Cruz were intended to be presented in Tyler, they will be presented at the next meeting hopefully in the Fall.

Eleven complete new member applicants will be moved to the next ballot; these include **Neal Ryan Barshes, Jack Leigh Eidson, III, Ramyar Gilani, Erik P. Askenasy, Parker A. Bassett, David Lee Dawson, Vicki Suzanne Klimberg, Kareem R. Abdelfattah, Henry A. Reinhart, Marianne V. Cusack, Dixon Santana-Aponte.**

Memorial tributes were planned to be read at the Tyler meeting; these will be added to those given at the Fall Meeting in Dallas:

Waid Rogers

(by Ronny Stewart)

Michael Appel

(by Gil Jackson)

Robert McClelland

(by Bill Turner)

Patrick Thomas

(by Mac Sykes)

Robert Miley

(by Karamat Choudhry)

Robert Atchison Tate

(by Dick Frazee)

Shujaat “Shuji” Khan

(by Karamat Choudhry)

George Sullivan

(by John Freese)

Reminder: the upcoming Fall Society Meeting will be held in Dallas, Oct 16-18 at the Adolphus Hotel downtown. Local Arrangements Chair Michael Truitt is planning a great meeting and social events. Mark your calendars now!

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

Shannon Smith, Secretary