



WESTERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Colleagues:

The 115th Annual Scientific Session of the Western Surgical Association was held at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado, November 4-7, 2007. The resort has never looked better, and we had particularly outstanding clear, sunny and warm weather. It is always a treat to take the organization back to the Broadmoor, where we have been meeting since the 1920's. The quality of the scientific sessions and the social functions were superb. Our thanks to Amilu Rothhammer, Bill Chambers, William Fry, and Terry O'Rourke for their work as the local arrangements committee, and to our meeting planners Nonie Lowry and Marcia McIntyre of Lettuce Planet. President Merril T. Dayton's Presidential Address, "Caveamus Surgeones – Five Great Threats to Surgery in the New Millennium", was timely, thoughtful and poignant, and I encourage all to read this address if you missed the meeting.

A total of 27 of the 37 new members were in attendance. A total of 4 new members competed for the J. Bradley Aust Award, and the winner was Jason B. Fleming of MD Cancer Center in Houston. His paper was entitled, "The Influence of Obesity on Cancer-Related Outcomes After Pancreatectomy for Adenocarcinoma."

A copy of the minutes of the Business Meeting is enclosed. These are particularly lengthy this year in an effort to keep the membership informed of our on-going discussions regarding publication and acceptance rates in the Archives of Surgery. Complete transcription of the business meeting is also available from my office if you desire. If you did not attend the meeting, a copy of the program should be enclosed. The program book includes the 2007 Scientific Program as well as the Transactions of the 2006 Meeting, including the complete 2006 presidential address, memorials to deceased members, and the membership directory. Please review your demographic data in the directory to confirm its accuracy. Please note that there was a minor technical error in the directory this year in regards to "year-elected." Please be assured this will be published accurately again next year. Note too that we are trying to add your date of birth to our private membership directory to help us determine when you will become a senior member. Please email the secretary's office with your date of birth and any corrections to your address. You may also make these changes yourself by logging into the members only portion of the website.

Also enclosed is the list of 27 new members elected to the Association. This slate of new members is superior and reflective of the health of our organization. Thanks to all of you who recruited this great group of new members. Please drop them a note or e-mail of welcome and congratulations.

Now is the time to start the application process for new members. Please consider sponsoring a new member this year. The application process will be handled "on-line" this year. Prospective members must submit an on-line application. The applicant must also submit an updated curriculum vita. The applicant and/or sponsoring member is still responsible for submission of the sponsoring letter as well as 2 endorsing letters to the Secretary's office by May 1, 2008. Please review the new application form on our website.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 9-12, 2008 AT THE ELDORADO HOTEL, SANTA FE