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September 2008

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed are the preliminary program booklet, meeting registration form with hotel information, and general meeting information for the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Western Surgical Association. We look forward to hosting this year's WSA Annual Meeting at the Eldorado Hotel and Spa in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Special events on Sunday afternoon include an orientation to the culture and tradition of Santa Fe, as well as an expert introduction to the rocks and gems of the region that you won't want to miss! Of course we'll have the ever-popular welcome reception Sunday evening, and this year's Presidential reception and banquet will be a Black Tie Western. Those of you who have visited Santa Fe in the past are sure to look forward to the chance return, and first-time guests are most certainly in for a treat.

Early registration is well on pace, so I urge you to reserve your room and air transport immediately. **Please note that the deadline to avoid late fees for meeting registration is October 10th, and rooms at the resort are filling up very quickly.** Registration forms are easily accessible from our website. Hotel reservations can also be made from our website or you may call 1-800-955-4455.

The scientific program promises to be superb. The program includes 28 papers, including several presentations by new members competing for the J. Bradley Aust Award. This year's panel discussion will be on the topic of "*Patient Safety*," and we will be privileged to hear President Gewertz's Presidential Address entitled, "*Life, Surgery and the Pursuit of Happiness*."

Also enclosed is a strong list of candidates for membership reviewed by the Membership Committee. Please record any "comments" regarding these individuals on the enclosed paper and FAX to: 503-227-8793.

The Santa Fe local arrangements committee, President Gewertz, and I look forward to seeing you at the Eldorado. I am certain it is going to be a great meeting.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD
Secretary, WSA

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

www.westernsurg.org