



## WESTERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Colleagues:

The 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Session of the Western Surgical Association was held at the Westin La Cantera Resort in San Antonio, Texas from November 8-11, 2009. This wonderful meeting venue provided terrific amenities for the annual meeting. Our special thanks to Arthur and Iris McFee, for once again providing the perfect touches of a local arrangements chair, and of course thanks to our meeting planner, Nonie Lowry of LP etc, Inc. for another terrifically well organized venue site. President Wayne Schwesigner's Address, "Surgery in a Flattening World: Outsourcing, Insourcing, Resourcing", was creative, insightful and thoughtful, and provided stimulating discussion throughout the meeting, particularly on the issue of medical tourism. I encourage you to read this address if you missed the meeting.

A disappointing total of 9 of the 16 new members were in attendance. This is a good opportunity to remind all the membership that new members are expected to be present at the year of their induction to receive their certificate and to be formally introduced. A total of six new members competed for the J. Bradley Aust Award, and the winner was Karen R. Borman, who just recently relocated to Abington, PA for her work entitled *Motivations to Pursue Fellowships are Gender Neutral*. Please drop a note of congratulations to Karen if you have the opportunity; her expertise in surgical education is a wonderful addition to our organization.

A copy of the minutes of the Business Meeting are enclosed. For those that attended the Annual Meeting, we ask that you take a moment to complete and return the Post Meeting Evaluation, which was distributed via email. If you did not attend the meeting, a copy of the program should be enclosed. The program book includes the 2009 Scientific Program as well as the Transactions of the 2008 Meeting, including the complete 2008 presidential address, memorials to deceased members, and the membership directory. Please review your demographic data in the directory to confirm its accuracy. 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 member's only portion of the website.

Also enclosed is the list of 10 new members elected to the Association. Our bylaws cap active membership at 350, and currently there are 305 active members. The health of our organization is dependant on active, productive, participating membership. Please encourage and recruit such outstanding individuals whenever possible. It is a nice tradition of the Western for each of us to send a note of welcome and congratulations to our new members.

**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 June 1, 2010. Please review the new application form on our website.**

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 7-10, 2010 AT THE DRAKE HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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