



WESTERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

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February 2009

Dear Colleagues:

The 116th Annual Scientific Session of the Western Surgical Association was held at the Eldorado Hotel and Spa in Santa Fe, New Mexico November 9-12, 2008. Although the weather was unseasonably cold (it snowed!) we had outstanding attendance for both the scientific as well as social programs. Our special thanks to William R Schiller and his wife Beverlee Anderson for their work on local arrangements, and to our meeting planners Nonie Lowry and Marcia McIntyre of LP, etc. President Bruce Gewertz's Address, "Life, Surgery and the Pursuit of Happiness", was both insightful and humorous, and reminded all of the difficult yet key task of balancing our lives. I encourage you to read this address if you missed the meeting.

A total of 22 of the 27 new members were in attendance. A total of 8 new members competed for the J. Bradley Aust Award, and the winner was Mark B. Faries of Santa Monica, CA for his work entitled *Predictors of Occult Nodal Metastasis in Patients with Thin Melanoma*. Please drop a note of congratulations to Mark if you have the opportunity.

A copy of the minutes of the Business Meeting is enclosed. For those that attended the Annual Meeting, we ask that you take a moment to complete and return the Post Meeting Evaluation form, included in this mailing. If you did not attend the meeting, a copy of the program should be enclosed. The program book includes the 2008 Scientific Program as well as the Transactions of the 2007 Meeting, including the complete 2007 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 members only portion of the website.

Also enclosed is the list of 16 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 June 1, 2009. Please review the new application form on our website.

Several members completed their terms of service to the Western Surgical Association this November. They include Vice-Presidents John A. Weigelt and Theodore X. O'Connell, and District Representative Robert V. Rege. Their efforts on behalf of the Association are most appreciated.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 8-11, 2009 AT THE WESTIN LA CANTERA RESORT, SAN ANTONIO

www.westernsurg.org