



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



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Association are most appreciated. The new officers elected at this year's business meeting are:

President:	Wayne H. Schwesinger	San Antonio, TX
First Vice-President:	William H. Snyder	Temple, TX
Second Vice-President:	Mark M. Connolly	Chicago, IL
District Representative:	Peter W. T. Pisters	Houston, TX

The call for abstracts will be included in the March Newsletter. The deadline for abstract submission is early, June 1, to comply with the ACS/CME requirements.

Locations and dates for upcoming meetings are listed below. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendars and PC's, Blackberry's, iPhones, etc. Also, please check out the link on our web site soon to next year's site at the Westin La Cantera Resort in San Antonio, Texas. Local arrangements chair and past-president Art McPhee will make sure we have a Texas-large good time. Mark your calendars! It is a great venue for a meeting.

Future meeting plans at the present time include:

Westin La Cantera Resort	San Antonio, TX	November 8-11, 2009
The Drake Hotel	Chicago, Ill	November 7-10, 2010
Loews Ventana Canyon	Tucson, Az	November 6-9, 2011
The Broadmoor Resort	Colorado Springs, CO	November 4-7, 2012
The Grand America Hotel	Salt Lake City, UT	November 3-6, 2013

Please check out our website. The membership directory is very user friendly, and can be used to look up your fellow members as well as to update your own contact information. **Please be sure we have your correct e-mail address**, as our hope is to communicate more via e-mail, saving some postage costs. Also, dues payments can soon be made online, thanks to LP, etc. and the Treasurer's office updates. We will send out an e-mail with the link when it is up and running. Please keep an eye out for it towards the end of this month.

Please feel free to call or email me or my assistant, Lisa Querido, if there is anything we can do to support The Western.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory J. ("Jerry") Jurkovich, MD, FACS
Secretary, Western Surgical Association

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