

December, 2007

Fellows of the Southern Surgical Association:

The One Hundred Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Southern Surgical Association was held at The Homestead, Hot Springs, Virginia, December 2, 3, 4, & 5, 2007. President R. Phillip Burns conducted the meeting. President Burns' address entitled, "The Historic and Questionable Future Role of Public Hospitals", was outstanding. Dr. Eugene Foley was responsible for local arrangements. The Association is indebted to him for expertly handling these important responsibilities. The entire scientific program was enthusiastically received, and the presentations were of the highest quality.

The following are the elected officers for the coming year (2007-2008):

Dr. James A. O'Neill, President
Dr. William Browder, First Vice-President
Dr. Eugene F. Foley, Second Vice-President
Dr. L. D. Britt, Secretary
Dr. J. Wayne Meredith, Treasurer

Dr. R. Phillip Burns was elected to join the Council of the Association.

Also, the following were elected to active membership:

Martin L. Blakely	Memphis, TN
Ernest F. J. Block	Orlando, FL
Kenneth L. Brayman	Charlottesville, VA
Mark D. Duncan	Baltimore, MD
Daniel J. Fry	New Orleans, LA
David Allen Gerber	Chapel Hill, NC
James Karl Kirklin	Birmingham, AL
Leonidas G. Koniaris	Miami, FL
Eugene M. Langan, III	Greenville, SC
James W. Maher	Richmond, VA
Robert C. G. Martin, II	Louisville, KY
David A. Rothenberger	Minneapolis, MN
Hamilton Earl Russell, Jr.	Greenville, SC
Richard David Schulick	Baltimore, MD
Charles A. Staley	Atlanta, GA
William Martin Stone	Phoenix, AZ
Leonard J. Weireter	Norfolk, VA
Emmanuel E. Zervos	Greenville, SC
Michael J. Zinner	Boston, MA

Reports of the activities of the American Board of Surgery, Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons, and the Advisory Council of the American College of Surgeons were given by John B. Hanks, Jesse T. Davidson, III, and Anthony Meyers respectively.

Based on the qualifications highlighted in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution, senior status was approved for the following active members:

John J. Coleman, III	Indiana
James T. Evans	New York
David N. Herndon	Texas
John I. Hollenbeck	Florida
Charles G. Howell, Jr.	Georgia
Thomas R. Gadacz	Florida
Irving L. Kron	Virginia
George S. Leight, Jr.	North Carolina
Arnold Luterman	Alabama
Bruce V. MacFadyen, Jr.	Georgia
Mark A. Malangoni	Ohio
Dale W. Oller	North Carolina
Henry A. Pitt	Indiana
Robert S. Rhodes	Pennsylvania
William L. Russell	Tennessee
Charles D. Smith, III	South Carolina

The Shipley Memorial Award for 2006 was given to Dr. Devin E. Eckhoff of Birmingham, Alabama.

The History of Medicine Committee selected Lawrence Lottenberg, M.D. of Gainesville, Florida to be the 2008 award recipient. He will conduct the research required to report on the life and medical activities of the Dr. Robert Zeppa, the past President of the Southern Surgical Association and several other major organizations. He was affectionately considered by many as “a Southern transplant that survived”.

The following action item was proposed by the Council and subsequently approved by the membership:

- There will be an increase in the active membership roster from 300 to 325. The Association’s constitution (Article IX) will reflect this change.

The Council clarified the following requirements:

- Membership in the Association is not effective until the duly elected individual attends an actual meeting. If this individual fails to activate his (her) membership after two years since the election, the membership offer will be withdrawn.

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- The Council will remove from the fellowship roster any member who has missed three consecutive meetings (without an excused absence granted by the Council). If a member – who has missed the two previous annual meetings without an approved excused absence – has not registered and is not in attendance by the last day (Wednesday) of the meeting, he (she) will no longer be considered a member of the Association for he (she) would have missed three consecutive meetings. Therefore, all rights and privileges as a member will be terminated at the end of that annual meeting.

The Council raised the flag of caution regarding NOTES (Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery). While there are some sound indications for this therapeutic approach, the advocacy of NOTES as option for cholecystomies and appendectomies is both unfounded and unsafe.

The Breakers, West Palm Beach, Florida, was designated as the location for the 2008 meeting on November 30 - December 3, 2008. The Local Arrangements Chairman will be Dr. Alan S. Livingstone of Miami, Florida.

Sincerely,

L. D. Britt M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary, Southern Surgical Association

LDB/kd