

North Pacific Surgical association

Council Meeting

Via Zoom

November 2, 2020

Councilors attending (*indicated)

- *John Waldhausen, MD, President (Seattle)
- *Allen Hayashi, MD, President Ex-Officio (Victoria/Alberta)
- *Nathalie Johnson, MD, Vice President (Portland)
- Vance Sohn, MD, 2nd Vice President (Tacoma)
- Kenneth Gow, MD, Secretary-Treasurer (Seattle)
- *Sam Wiseman, MD, Senior Councilor (Vancouver)
- Timothy Bax, MD, Junior Councilor (Spokane/Idaho)
- *Martin Schreiber, MD, Delegate to ACS Board of Governors (Portland)
- Laszlo Kiraly, MD, Recorder (Tacoma)
- *Nis Schmidt, MD, Historian (Vancouver)

Others attending:

Harvey Gail, NPSA Executive Director
Chad Ball, MD, Victoria/Alberta Caucus, Incoming Jr. Councilor
Flavio Rocha, MD, Seattle Caucus, Incoming Treasurer
Rebecca Stark, MD, Seattle Caucus, 2020 Annual Meeting Chair
Matt Martin, MD, Former Recorder

1. Welcome, Call to Order

Dr. John Waldhausen welcomed the attendees held via Zoom. It was noted a quorum was present.

2. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Waldhausen noted that since Dr. Gow was not available but he might come on later. Harvey Gail noted the financial reports were emailed out and posted on the website. He said the year to date net income is negative, about \$3,000. Member dues are starting to come in and we have received more good sponsor support just recently. He said the annual meeting budget is his best estimate. He said we have about 80 people paying money to attend, but the budget has 100 in it. He was hopeful we would get close to that number.

3. Annual Meetings

A. 2020 Virtual Meeting

Dr. Rebecca Stark described in brief, the 2020 annual meeting. She said the moderator session was just held and it went well. She said Dr. Estelle Williams responded and she will have her talk pre-recorded. Dr John Lynch has been contacted by the AV team to see if he would like to pre-record his presentation, otherwise it will be live.

Harvey Gail said will remind attendees that they need to download the Whova app. He said several emails about that have gone out and that we have about 65% of the attendees showing they downloaded the app.

B. 2021 Meeting, Portland

Dr. Nathalie Johnson said the meeting will be at the Nines Hotel. She described her conversation with their staff member. She said the hotel is functioning, they are holding meetings and that they anticipate that by next year a lot of the restrictions will be lifted. She said they might let us alter the contract, so we are not committed to as many sleeping rooms. Gail confirmed that would be a very good idea.

Dr. Johnson said they have started contacting people for sponsor support. She suggested the meeting should be blended between live and virtual. She is working on the invited professor, but no solid leads on that yet.

The group talked about the benefits and potential issues with having a virtual attendance option. Dr. Johnson noted some meetings seem to have more attendance because they are virtual. Also, a speaker could be brought in virtually as well. Dr. Martin Schreiber commented that we could encourage people to come both virtually and in person. Dr. Nis Schmidt felt connecting in person is an important part of the profession.

3. Historian's Report

Dr. Schmidt said he is ready to go for his history speech. The title is "Unmasking the Unmasked." He noted that in preparing the presentation he found the topic to be interesting and a much larger issue than he thought it would be. He did not have any ideas for next year yet.

4. Governor's Report

Dr. Schreiber said technically he is no longer the ACS Governor now that Dr. Gow has been made official at the ACS Clinical Congress. He noted there is a war raging over Medicare cuts for surgical services. This could be an 8-10% cut in rates. However, there is a Covid-19 emergency bill in consideration that would hold off on reductions for two years.

5. Administrator's Report

Harvey Gail said the new website that we started this year seems to be working well, especially for dues renewal. He said about 53% of the members have renewed so far, most of them online through the website. He noted other features of the website, including a member search feature and a special page for the councilors where the meetings and documents are posted.

Gail noted that the hotel contract and the Seattle Art museum and Fairmont Olympic Hotel contracts honored the Force Majeure clause and allowed us to get our deposits back. We were able to make a compelling argument that the meeting was not economically viable due to the pandemic.

Some commented that the hotel in 2021 is right downtown in Portland and would be at the center of any protests if they occurred. Gail noted that this would be a major concern this year, but hopefully all of this will wind down by next year.

Dr. Johnson asked if we could prepare a budget for the event next year and include the costs of audiovisual services since part of the meeting will be virtual. She asked if there was an estimate of the cost. Gail predicted the cost for AV is normally around \$9,500 and it might be a little more than a regular

in person meeting if a virtual meeting services were also needed. This is due to additional equipment and monitoring needed, as well as the need to pre-record some presentations.

Gail noted that the virtual meeting this year was quite a challenge because of the need to prepare nearly the entire meeting in advance. All the video recordings and orchestration of presentations had to be preplanned. In a live meeting, abstract presenters just hand the thumb drive to the AV staff and walk up to the podium. In this meeting, they are pre-recorded and tested well in advance. Much of the cost for AV services is assisting people getting their presentations prerecorded.

The group discussed strategies for registration fees for the 2021 meeting. Dr. Schreiber suggested fees for the virtual option might have to be higher to entice people to attend in person. Gail suggested the virtual attendee rates should be the same as regular registration. He noted there is a risk that people would select the virtual option and we would not meet the catering and hotel minimums. It was also noted that some travel restrictions may still be in place from institutions next year. Dr. Johnson said we might want to plan for some fun on-site activities to entice people to come.

Gail noted that the administrative contract for NPSA with Spire Management is up for renewal. He commented that due to efficiencies in the new website, there may not need to be an increase in the retainer, at least initially starting in January. Gail said he will run some numbers and prepare a draft of the agreement for review.

6. Old Business

A. American Journal of Surgery

Dr. Waldhausen said Dr. Kiraly has had some contact with the *American Journal of Surgery*, and it sounds like we have increased our coverage with them.

B. Strategic Planning

Gail shared a screen noting the three areas of strategic planning initiatives. They are:

Infrastructure

- Bylaws
- Finances, budgeting
- Caucuses - coordination of duties
- Membership tracking and data
- Leadership development, playbook for council positions
- Geographic representation (new areas, Tri-cities, Wenatchee, the Skagit Valley and Bellingham)

Professional Development

- Member communication engagement
- Use of social media
- Mentoring
- Engaging medical students at medical schools

Science and Education

- Annual meeting
- Speakers, programs
- Collaboration with other organizations
- Publishing (*American Journal of Surgery*)

The group discussed each of the three areas and noted progress is being made on the bylaws, membership tracking (new website), social media (Twitter and Facebook accounts), and publishing (AJS). The new bylaws will address several of the initiatives since they allow for new member categories.

Gail noted the new website has some interactive features including a member look up tool and a page for councilors that has the dates of the meetings and links to the documents needed for the meetings. He encouraged everyone to check that out.

7. New Business

A. Proposed NPSA Members

Dr. Waldhausen referred to the list of new members reported in the agenda. The group discussed each candidate and in turn, the council voted all of them in.

- Dr. Waldhausen introduced **Dr. Lacey LaGrone**.
- Dr. Rocha commented on **Dr. Anjili Kumar** describing her role and background.
- Dr. Nathalie mentioned that while she did not know **Dr. Stephanie Wood** personally, she seemed like a great addition. Dr. Schreiber concurred that she does good upper GI surgery and is a nice person. Harvey Gail noted she was recommended by Dr. Liana Tsikitis.
- Dr. Schreiber introduced **Dr. Tim Seigel**. He is actively involved in palliative medicine.
- Dr. Waldhausen introduced **Dr. Sara Greenberg**. She is interested in global health and spends about three quarters of her time at Seattle Children's Hospital. Gail said we do not have an application for her yet, so she will need to have one filled out.

8. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Waldhausen asked for a review of the minutes of the August 31 council meeting. Hearing no comments, a motion was made to approve the minutes.

PASSED

Motion to approve the August 31 Council meeting minutes. MM Dr. Schreiber; MS Dr. Schmidt. Motion carried.

9. Next Meeting

Dr. Waldhausen noted the next meeting will be a de-brief meeting at 1:00 on Saturday, November 7.

Minutes taken by Harvey Gail, NPSA Administrator