

**North Pacific Surgical association**

**Council Meeting**

**August 31, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Flavio Rocha, MD, Seattle Caucus  
Rebecca Stark, MD, Seattle Caucus, 2020 Annual Meeting Chair

**1. Welcome, Call to Order**

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

**2. Minutes**

Dr Waldhausen called for a review of the June 29 council meeting minutes. Hearing no comments, a motion was made to approve the minutes.

**PASSED**

*Motion to approve the minutes of council meeting on June 29, 2020. MM Dr. Al Hayashi.  
Motion carried.*

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Dr. Ken Gow said the financials for August 26, 2020 showing compared to last year. He noted the Merrill Lynch investment account is doing well having come back from earlier losses. He referred to the profit and loss report which was three pages. He pointed out that membership dues are up a little compared to 2019. Meeting income and expenses are down since the meeting has been changed to virtual. Overall, the bank balance doing well and is not negative.

Dr. Gow pointed out the budget for the annual meeting. He described the three scenarios for the meeting and that the budget is based on the middle scenario. He noted the likely scenario would be for a slightly positive net income. In the event we had a low number of registrants we could still break even. Harvey

Gail noted the registration fees are \$50 for NPSA members, \$25 for residents, medical students and retired members and \$100 for non-members.

Dr. Waldhausen asked if we have a budget for a speaker honoraria. Gail noted in the past NPSA has spent around \$200 - \$3,00 for that, but this year we do not have it in the budget. So, if that were to be added that would impact the financial results.

Dr. Waldhausen pointed out that Dr. Gow has been treasurer for six years and he is taking on the ACS Governor role in the fall, so NPSA needs a new person to serve as treasurer. Dr. Gow noted that Dr. Flavio Rocha agreed to move into the treasurer position.

## **PASSED**

***Motion to nominate Dr, Flavio Rocha for NPSA Treasurer. MM Dr. Schreiber, MS Dr. Schmidt. Motion carried.***

Gail clarified that Dr. Gow will move into the ACS Governor position after the annual meeting.

## **4. Annual Meetings**

### *A. Seattle Meeting, 2020*

Dr. Stark noted we went over the schedule. She reviewed the guest speakers and Dr. Lynch will present on Washington's response to Covid 19 virus pandemic. She asked for input on whether presentations from our speakers should be pre-recorded or live. She said it would be beneficial to archive the talks. Abstract presentations will all be prerecorded. Dr. Waldhausen said the historian's presentation is typically live. Stark noted a live talk can have more energy. She said she will probably leave that decision up to the speakers. Dr. Schmidt said live presentations could have technical issues. Dr. Stark said the whole schedule is mapped out down to down to 10 minutes.

Dr. Stark noted she has not heard back about how many posters we can submit to the American Journal of Surgery. She said their committee discussed picking the top seven. Dr. Schreiber said posters not published could be submitted to another publication, but anything reported to AJS can't be submitted elsewhere. Dr. Rocha noted AJS has a brief reports for videos, so perhaps they have something similar for posters. Overall, Dr. Stark feels NPSA is in really good shape for the meeting.

Dr. Wiseman suggested NSA try to market the meeting more widely than NPSA. He noted a detailed email with a description of the virtual meeting, number of CME credits and the registration fees could attract more people, especially considering how the virus has impacted CME offerings. It was noted our NPSA Twitter page would be a good way to market the meeting.

Dr. Stark said we will have up to 3 moderators for the abstract session, but there won't be a discussant for each paper. Instead, moderators would handle questions based on their expertise. Dr. Waldhausen the welcome and closing presentations will be live. He also noted NPSA is using Dr. Meehan's Zoom account, so he asked for input on how to recognize him for that.

### *B. Portland Meeting 2021*

Dr. Nathalie Johnson said at the Portland caucus meeting they discussed the contract with the Nines Hotel that was signed. She noted the hotel has changed ownership and the restaurants have been closed. So, with concern that the hotel could host our meeting next year, she wanted to see if we could get out of the contract.

Dr. Johnson commented that the group talked about not signing a contract with a hotel and instead just booking a venue that does not have a hotel room block requirement. She felt the flexibility of not being in a hotel might be a good move considering things have not settled down yet. Also, she noted the group discussed different ways of providing entertainment, and that has not been determined yet.

#### *C. Tacoma Meeting 2022*

Dr. Vance Sohn said the Hotel Murano has been booked for 2022. He noted in Tacoma, event venue selection is much more limited. He noted ideas for entertainment have not been determined since it's a little too far out.

### **5. Historian's Report**

Dr. Nis Schmidt asked anyone felt it would be difficult getting people back together after a break before his Historian's lecture. Dr. Stark said his presentation will be 30 minutes at 11:30 on Saturday. She also noted we will not have a live poster session.

Dr. Schmidt will contact Dr. Lynch about the historical aspects of pandemics and surgical care.

### **6. Governor's Report**

Dr. Schreiber noted Dr. Gow will take over for the ACS Governor position at the annual meeting. The ACS transitions new governors in October at the Clinical Congress. He reported that ACS is spending the majority of its effort on Medicare cuts. He noted Medicare proposal is for a budget neutral approach that cuts surgeries by eight percent but transfers the money to primary care which would give family practice physicians raises. He said this is a real battle that is bad because it is dividing the house of medicine.

Dr. Schreiber also reported that the ACS Board of Governors is adding a new "pillar" for diversity and inclusion. He said this may affect other pillars and workgroups which amounts to a major reorganization. He noted that the communication strategy is also changing.

### **7. Administrator's Report**

Harvey Gail said NPSA will be putting out a newsletter and that he is working on that now. He said it will include a president's message, article on the annual meeting, report on the proposed bylaws changes, some highlights of the new website and information on how to renew dues.

### **8. Next Meeting**

Dr. Waldhausen noted the next Council meeting will be set for late September or early October.

*Minutes taken by Harvey Gail, NPSA Administrator*