

North Pacific Surgical association

Council Meeting

May 28, 2020

Minutes

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:

Matt Martin, MD
Flavio Rocha, MD (Annual Meeting Committee)
Harvey Gail, NPSA Executive Director
Chad Ball, MD (Victoria/Alberta Caucus)

1. Welcome

Dr. Waldhausen welcomed the group and noted his appreciation for being on the Zoom call. It was noted a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Waldhausen asked for a review of the minutes of the last council meeting in March. He asked about several action items from the previous minutes. Gail said he will send a survey to members about their need for self-assessment credit at our annual meeting. Also, the revisions to the bylaws are ready to send to the members. Gail suggested they be sent with a summary memo on the proposed changes with a draft of the full bylaws for review.

PASSED

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 Council meeting. MM Dr. Schmidt. MS Dr Schreiber. Motion carried.

3. Financial Report

Dr. Waldhausen said the treasurer, Dr. Gow had to be in the O.R. so he wasn't able to make the call, but he provided a report by email that was conveyed to the group. Dr. Gow noted the general checking account balance is healthy. He was concerned about having difficulty getting funding from sponsors for the annual meeting in November in light of the Covid-19 Virus and related restrictions. Dr. Gow's report noted the account balance in the Merrill Lynch investment account has dropped due to the Covid 19 virus situation, but he was not particularly concerned about that.

Dr. Waldhausen reported Dr. Gow's thoughts about the annual meeting. Due to attendance and sponsorship concerns, he didn't think NPSA should proceed with the annual meeting and that it should be cancelled right now.

4. Annual Meeting

The group discussed whether to cancel the annual meeting in Seattle in November and if it could be held as a virtual event. Dr. Schreiber said the ACS Clinical Congress in Chicago has not been cancelled. Gail said the ACS just sent out a survey about whether to hold the ACS Clinical Congress. He noted the questions suggested they are considering a hybrid format where some of the meeting is virtual and some is in person. Gail guessed that the results should be out within a week or two about whether to proceed with the meeting.

Dr. Kiraly said it would be a good idea to start exploring a contingency plan for a virtual meeting. Dr. Wiseman pointed out that travel from Canada is problematic due to issues crossing the US – Canada border. He said travel insurance may be impossible to get. He noted travelers from Canada to the U.S. must remain there for a 14-day quarantine period. This will essentially prevent Canadians from attending the meeting in Seattle. Dr. Schmidt described his experience with his choral group. They had to cancel all their choir concerts and he echoed many of the travel concerns.

Dr. Waldhausen said we should ask the Fairmont Olympic Hotel if we have the option to cancel now and reschedule in six years. Gail noted that this length of time may be outside of the timeline they would like, but it's worth asking. Dr. Waldhausen said the pediatric surgical association's meeting was rescheduled as an online meeting, but it seemed to him that not many people participated.

Dr. Martin said NW States Trauma meeting is going to be done virtually. He noted they are making a small profit from the CME being offered. Dr. Schreiber said OHSU has a technical staff person in their I.T. department who handles the virtual meetings. Dr. Kiraly described how that meeting worked for abstracts. He was able to log in and answer questions on the abstract he presented and it seemed to produce excellent discussion.

Dr. Wiseman suggested NPSA has about two months to decide on canceling the live meeting and going virtual. Dr. Kiraly noted OHSU has not determined if there is a travel ban on staff yet. Dr. Rocha felt NPSA should prepare for the worst, but not to make that decision right now. Dr. Ball said he is negotiating with the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver and they have been very good to their group. So, hopefully the relationship may carry over to the Fairmont Olympic in Seattle. Dr. Bax, noted the council should layout the realities of the meeting and decide what the contingencies are going to be. It was suggested the live virtual sessions should be a combination of a taped presentation followed by live Q and A session.

Gail said he will contact the ACS CME department to ask for some flexibility on the 90-day CME application time. He suggested we ask for it to be shortened to 60 days. Dr. Wiseman added that a deadline should be set to determine if the meeting should go on as planned or become a virtual meeting. He suggested July, but we should try to push the decision down the road as far as possible. Gail will contact the hotel staff to determine if there is any flexibility in the contract for hotel room attrition and the food and beverage minimum requirement.

5. New Business

A. ACS Governor

Gail noted that Dr. Schreiber nominated Ken Gow and he is interested. Dr. Waldhausen said to be fair, he wanted to make sure all the caucus areas had an opportunity to nominate a person to serve as Governor. Gail confirmed that this notice went out to all caucus members. Dr. Waldhausen noted that if there are multiple candidates, the council could vote. Gail noted the candidate and alternate for ACS governor need to be submitted to the ACS by June 19.

6. Old Business

A. Strategic Planning Initiatives

Dr. Waldhausen reviewed the summary sheet on the initiatives and he felt progress is being made.

B. New NPSA Website

Gail noted the transfer to the new NPSA website platform is complete. He noted many of the features of the new website which are more interactive and have more utility than the previous platform. He encouraged people to check out the “find a member” feature and the council member’s calendar and information page. He asked for input on the website, particularly the pictures. Gail said all the NPSA members have all been entered into the database on the website which will allow them to update their own record, pay dues and “autofill” their event registration. He said at some point the members will receive an email from the website about payment of dues. People can respond to the email and pay their dues on-line by credit card.

6. Next Meeting Date

Dr. Waldhausen suggested the next council meeting should be at the end of June or early July. Gail said the date could be moved up if a discussion was needed earlier than that.

7. Adjournment

PASSED

Motion to adjourn the meeting MM Dr. Schreiber, MS Dr. Martin. Motion carried.

Minutes taken by Harvey Gail, NPSA Administrator

ACTION ITEMS

- Prepare summary memo of bylaws changes to send to NPSA members (Harvey Gail)
- Contact the Fairmont Olympic Hotel Staff (Harvey Gail)
- Prepare a survey for NPSA members on their CME needs (Harvey Gail)
- Submit names to the council for a vote on ACS Governor and alternate by June 19 (Harvey Gail to email councilors with names that have been submitted)
- Send annual dues invoices to members from new website (Harvey Gail)
- Set date for next council meeting (Dr. Waldhausen)