

Southern Thoracic Surgical Association  
64th Annual Meeting  
San Antonio, TX  
Business Meeting  
November 10, 2017

DR. JONES: Okay, I think we'll go ahead and get started. I'd like to welcome everyone to our annual business meeting, here at the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. I think the room is sufficiently small enough, but if you can't hear or can't see, you can move closer to the front.

First, I would just like to begin by welcoming all the Past Presidents. Many of them are here, some I noted on the list were scheduled to come but couldn't come, but I would ask the Past Presidents to stand, and let's give them a round of applause.

(Applause).

Gus Mavroudis: Are you sure they're all still alive?

DR. JONES: We think they are, Gus.

DR. JONES: They're not on the necrology report, so we believe they're alive.

I would also like to, acknowledge the STSA Council. When I say your name I'd like for you to stand up, and then, at the, we'll hold all the applause until the end.

A.J. Carpenter, whose done a fantastic

job as Council Chair this year;  
Kevin Accola, President-Elect; John  
Calhoon, Past President; Vinod  
Thourani, Vice President; Dan  
Miller, Secretary/Treasurer; Todd  
Rosengart, Councilor; Mark  
Slaughter, Councilor; Blair  
Marshall, Councilor; Richard  
Freeman, Director of our CME  
Program; John Hammon, who had to go  
back to Winston-Salem, I know he  
told me; and our editor of *The  
Annals*, Alec Patterson.

(Applause).

DR. JONES: I'd now like to give some  
special thanks to some individuals who have  
served on the Council, and they'll be rotating  
off. And as I call your name, if you could come  
up and receive a very nice plaque. We'll start  
with Dr. Vinod Thourani, who is Vice President  
of the Southern this year, so Vinod.

(Applause).

DR. JONES: Thank you Vinod.

Next, if we can have Todd Rosengart

come up, if Todd is here. I see him, so we'll get that plaque to him. Mark Slaughter, ok. And then Richard Freeman, who it's three or four years of CME, Richard? Five. Oh, okay.

DR. FREEMAN: Am I walking slow?

DR. JONES: You're walking slow.

DR. FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause).

DR. JONES: I'd now like to invite Dr. Dan Miller to come and present the Secretary/Treasurer report.

DR. MILLER: Thank you, David.

At this time I'd like, the minutes of the annual business meeting is online, at this time I'd like call for a motion to accept those.

(Motion made, seconded and approved).

DR. MILLER: A discussion from those minutes. Alright, all in favor?

(Motion made, seconded and approved).

DR. MILLER: So carried.

So this time there's seven revisions to our bylaws, and most of it is just very small things. The first, is for the Candidate

Member, change ABTS on there, but the main thing is, after three years with a letter of recommendation from one of our Active members, they can then become a full Active Member with no fee. The second is in regards to the bylaws revision; we're changing the Resident status to Candidate. And then we're changing to be correct, we're changing instead of Chairman to Chair, of the membership committee and throughout the rest of the document. Also too, in regards to the bylaws of the numbers of tenures and qualifications, Secretary/Treasurer was in there twice. And down below we're adding to this section Chair of the Finance Committee, and that will come up in just a second. In regards to the Program Committee, we're adding the Council Chair onto that committee meeting, and the Senior Members of the appointed Committee will be Co-Chairs for that year. Similar to the Postgraduate Committee, with the Senior Members will be the Co-Chairs for that committee. The others, the Scholarship Committee, we're going to increase that from four to five members, and then we're going to,

again, change the nomenclature from Chairman to Chair.

Now because of finances, doing well, it's not like things are going negative, we're actually doing very well. So we thought it would be good as we're going to the next period of our development that there be a development of a Financial Committee. And this Finance Committee consists of the President-Elect, the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Past President, and three members appointed by the Council. You will have to turn in your IRS salary things for the last two years to be considered for that. No, I'm just kidding. We're not going to do that.

But the Chair...God, there was silence on that. That was great.

David Jones: I think that was fear, it was fear.

DR. MILLER: The Chair will be appointed by the Executive Committee, and will not be a current member of the Committee. Each appointed member shall serve for a three year term beginning at the time of the appointment.

And it's provided that those terms will be effective starting January 2018, and they will be staggered over that time so there's one third coming on and going off at the same time. Each appointed member may serve a maximum of two full three-year terms. The committee shall be responsible for the financial oversight of the Association, insuring its long-term financial viability in accordance with the strategic plan established by the Council.

So at this time, I would like to ask for a motion to accept these bylaws changes.

Second? Any discussion? Alright. All in favor?

(Motion made, seconded and approved).

DR. MILLER: So carried. Alright.

So the next is the membership category. As of the end of October we had a total of roughly 1,200 members, the majority of those, as you would expect, would be in the Active, 719, Senior, 375, and then the other Honorary Members. We had 55 new applications this year; 31 for Active, 41 for Candidate, Pre-Candidate and Associate. This is just a

breakdown into a pie chart for that.

In regards to our financial history, you're looking at our actual finances, you can see that our operative income usually ranges between \$600,000-\$710,000 a year, whereas our operating expense is about \$100,000 to \$75,000 below that. If you look at our financial statements at the end of 2016, we're roughly a little over \$2.3 million and slowly going up. We had just a little drop off, 2016, that was because of some revenue shifting around, but that should continue to rise to 2018. Our portfolio investment right now is at \$1.5 million. If we look at the annual revenue, from the meeting is around \$616,000. Budgeted is usually \$615,000. For this year the budget is \$619,000. And this is what is really going to help us when we have the Finance Committee, to really look at this in detail to make sure we're not leaving any money out there on the table, or spending money that we shouldn't be. The expenses have been pretty steady. We've had an increase this next year for 2018, because there's been discussion about our management

fees from STS, are supposedly supposed to go up. We're in some negotiations with them in regards to that, so that's going to be something you're going to be hearing about over the near future. Our net income is down a little bit and that's because of the increase in the STS management fees.

That would complete by financial report. I'm sorry, one thing. I got some others.

The next would be, for all the new members that are here right now, we'd love for you to stand and be recognized at this time.

(New members standing).

DR. MILLER: Alright. Thank you.

(Applause).

DR. MILLER: At the end of the business meeting we'd like for you to come forward, you'll get your certificate, and there will be a group picture. Alright, all for of you. And that would complete my report.

DR. JONES: We'll now ask A. J. to come forward and give the report of the Council Chair.

DR. CARPENTER: So we have a number of committee reports to go through. For the start, I'd like to start with asking Dr. Bob Dabal and Dr. Melanie Edwards to come forward and give the report of the PostgraduateCommittee.

DR. DABAL: We will be brief with our report. The most important thing we can say is that we hope you'll all join us tomorrow. The PostgraduateCommittee made the decision that we are going to move to the end of the meeting as opposed to the beginning of the meeting, and we hope that everybody will be enthusiastic about their participation.

The theme for this year's program is changing practices, changing technologies; and we think that we've got a great program that's going to engage everybody in the membership. It doesn't limit to academic practice; we include private practice. Some of the highlights of the program include a legends talk with Dr. Coselli. Dr. Sundt is going to be talking about quality in the operating room, which is an important issue. Then, we also have a session for our interdisciplinary providers that we

hope will have good participation. And then the usual breakouts with all of the individual specialties. I hope that everybody will make it here tomorrow for those sessions.

DR. EDWARDS: And just to give thanks to the members of the Postgraduate Committee and recognize their work. If any members are here today, if they'd like to stand and be recognized.

(Applause).

DR. EDWARDS: Thank you.

DR. CARPENTER: Dr. Husain, Dr. Lee, will give the report of the Program Committee.

DR. HUSAIN: Thanks Dr. Carpenter.

I'd like to take a moment first to thank Beth Winer, Rachel Pebworth, and Laura Medek, because without them there's no way Dr. Lee or I could of survived the last several months getting the program together, so a round of applause for them please.

(Applause).

DR. HUSAIN: Also would like to highlight and recognize all of the different abstract reviewers we had. We had several and I

think it was a good geographic mix from around the country and we're very thankful for them.

In terms of the specifics regarding the data, pretty equal in terms of how many abstracts were submitted. The two things that pointed out to us, that were somewhat surprising, was that the general thoracic abstracts went up tremendously and the congenital abstracts came down a bit. I think we will be working with those specific groups and apply general thoracic.

The one other change we made in the program this year was to create an ECMO breakout. It was pretty well attended, and so we're excited that we did that. If that's something the committee or organization would like to continue, we can continue with that process moving forward.

DR. LEE: I'd like to just add that you know we have made changes at Dr. Jones' request, so if you don't like it, it's his fault. We switched the Saturday night dinner to Friday night so we could get more people involved. We did a lot of other things that you

may have noticed, that you may have not. I mean we're thinking about some changes for next year. Dr. Accola has some great ideas, but we don't know if they're good or bad. We don't know if they're good or bad unless you tell us. And it doesn't need to be the formal thing because I hate filling the CME thing out, but if you don't like something, tell us, tell a Council member. If you like something, tell us, tell a Council member and we'll repeat it. Thank you.

DR. CARPENTER: Dr. Savage please come forward to give the report of the Membership Committee.

DR. SAVAGE: Good afternoon.

There are 55 new member applications that have been reviewed and recommended by the Membership Committee.

Pre-Candidate Membership is offered to medical students and general surgery residents enrolled at a program in the southern region, and interested in pursuing a career in cardiothoracic surgery. These seven individuals have applied for this category of membership.

Candidate Membership is offered to cardiothoracic surgery residents and fellows matched or enrolled in an RRC accredited thoracic surgery program that is within the southern region. 14 individuals applied for this category of membership.

Associate Membership is offered to healthcare professionals working in the southern region, who support and work directly with cardiothoracic surgeons. Three individuals have applied for this category of membership.

Active Membership is offered to Board certified cardiothoracic surgeons who reside currently, or have previously practiced cardiothoracic surgery for at least one consecutive year, or have completed a thoracic surgery or general surgery residency program, or have completed a thoracic or cardiovascular research or clinical fellowship for at least one consecutive year in the southern region. 31 individuals have applied for this category of membership and are listed by state.

Will a member motion that we accept the proposed new members?

Is there any discussion? All in favor say I. Anyone opposed?

(Motion made, seconded and approved).

DR. SAVAGE: So carried. Thank you.

DR. CARPENTER: Dr. Freeman, the report of the Continuing Medical Education Committee, please?

DR. FREEMAN: Thank you Dr. Carpenter.

I am happy to report that the Association continues to be credentialed to provide CME to our meeting attendees. The evaluations from the 2016 meeting found no conflicts of interest that were perceived, which is very important to maintain our accreditation. The 2017 program has been reviewed not only by the program committee, but also by the CME committee, which is myself and the Chairs of the Program and the Postgraduate Committee. A few minor issues were identified and the presenters were asked to modify their disclosures for that. The most important thing all of you can do and remember to do please, is fill out the annual meeting evaluation. We have to have a certain percentage of those filled

out so that we can maintain our accreditation.

Thank you. That concludes my report.

DR. CARPENTER: In Dr. Hammon's absence, I'll ask Dr. Miller to please come give the report of the Historian.

DR. MILLER: Yes, Dr. Hammon had to go back to North Carolina. Unfortunately, we've had 9 members pass away this last year. And this is a list of them.

Just to start off, Dr. Denton Cooley, who passed away about ten days after our meeting. As you know he was an Honorary Member of this society, a giant of cardiothoracic surgery in the world. He graduated from UT; played basketball there. He actually led the team to the Southwest Conference championship in 1939. Is Dr. Calhoon here? Dr. Calhoon and I, I got to play golf with Dr. Cooley at our Cancun meeting and they were talking about the letterman's club, the Longhorn Club. Dr. Cooley pulled up his shirt and he had a Texas Longhorn branded on his chest. Yeah, in 1939. Can you believe that? So Dr. Cooley wasn't just an outstanding individual, he had, he did 120,000

operations. He operated up until the age of 87 and he passed away at the age of 86. He received the Medal of Freedom from Ronald Regan. I'm sorry, what did I say? He was 96 when he passed away, he operated up until he was 87 years of age. Sorry about that. But the thing was, he's the only member that I know of that, he won the Medal of Freedom and was given that by Ronald Regan. Just an outstanding career for Dr. Cooley.

Our next member is Sewell Dixon. Sewell Dixon was a private practice physician in Greenville, NC. He trained at Emory and Duke. He was well known for starting healthcare systems in St. Kitts, the West Indies, and spent a lot of time there. He really helped out those underprivileged people.

David Drinkwater, was a cardiothoracic surgeon. Started his career at UCLA and finished up the last 20 years at Vanderbilt University. And passed away at the age of 71.

Grady Hallman, another Texas Heart individual. He was like the father of congenital heart surgery there, and he passed

away at the age of 87. He was also an incredible trombone player. He was first seat at UT and he had a band at Texas Heart; that was called the Heartbeats for a number of years. They would play at The Cooley Society meeting every year and so forth like that.

Next is John Harrah. John started the cardiac surgery practice at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. Was on the original board that started the Marshall University School of Medicine, and he passed away at the age of 78.

Jorge Just was from Puerto Rico. Practiced in the south for a little bit, but his last 25 years was practicing in Pontiac, Michigan, and he passed away at the age of 80.

The next is Mr. William Rhea. He was a private practice physician, cardiac surgeon in Greenville, South Carolina. He started one of the major hospitals there, and unfortunately he died of pulmonary fibrosis at the age of 83.

Jesus Aguero was born in Mexico. He had practiced in Rio Grande Valley, McAllen, Texas. He started two mission programs there,

and did about 50% of his career of helping people in Mexico.

The last was Dr. Norman Snow, who trained earlier at the University of Louisville and practiced at Louisville. And then he was at Case Western Reserve and finished his career at the University of Illinois, and he passed away at the age of 72.

At this time I would appreciate if everyone would stand and have a moment of silence for these great individuals who were our colleagues.

(Moment of silence).

DR. MILLER: God bless you all.

Alright, thank you.

DR. CARPENTER: Dr. Patterson.

DR. PATTERSON: Thank you, A. J. and David.

*The Annals* continues to evolve. It's changed quite a bit in the last few years and more changes are to come. This just lists the steady state situation of manuscript submission in recent eight month period. It remains about the same, categories are, and there's been no

major changes in any of the categories. I will point out, you'll see very few number of papers submitted in the Southern. This reflects the fact that papers aren't submitted in August for Southern presentation, but just as an aside, we have an instituted policy of early submission. For example, many of the papers that have been presented at this meeting have already been reviewed. Judgements have been made about many of them and we think we can speed up the process of publication as a result.

This just demonstrates the acceptance rate by categories. The acceptance rate is just a bit lower in this current year, but it's largely unchanged. It's 60-65% typically for meeting papers, much less for original submissions not associated with the meeting, and for case reports and so on.

This just reflects the status of the last couple of STSA meeting paper rosters. You just saw the acceptance rate of 60% range and this is where it stands for meeting papers from 2015 to 2016.

I will also say that we had an *Annals*

planning, strategic planning meeting a couple of months ago, and there were some really excellent discussion from some members of the editorial leadership, the publishing staff from Elsevier, and STS staff were there. We got a lot good input and I think you'll see some exciting changes. For example, there will be some major changes to the format and presentation of *The Annals* website. We have some strategies to have papers that will be listed as soon as they are accepted, to be cited as accepted papers. We just have to put a little asterisk until a paper is finalized in the whole publication process, but we can nonetheless list them as accepted papers and have them citable as soon as they are accepted.

We also had some discussion about creation of a second journal or sister journal. And that is a discussion that is still in evolution. Any suggestions you folks have about *The Annals*, I'm eager to have input. It's your journal and I think it's doing quite well.

Thank you very much.

(Applause).

DR. JONES: As you know we had the opportunity to give to the Thoracic Surgery Foundation, and as an incentive, if you will, to donate, was the opportunity to win a 2-day all-expense paid like hundred million dollar stay here and so we ask A. J. to go ahead and draw a name from that. And the winner is Faisal Bakaeen. Faisal is here.

(Applause).

DR. CARPENTER: I was trying to pull my name. I blew it.

DR. JONES: Faisal they're already saying it's fixed.

DR. JONES: More importantly, thanks for giving.

DR. CARPENTER: And why didn't the rest of you guys?

I'd like to ask Dr. Cerfolio to come forward with the report of the Nominating Committee.

DR. CERFOLIO: Alright, well this is the suspense part of the meeting which is always fun, and so I think maybe we'll try to make it more suspenseful than usual, maybe.

There's some music and dancers that are supposed to come in but apparently the dancers had Shanda Blackmon's Uber driver and they've been delayed. Sorry about that.

First of all, it's been a great honor to have served here; actually I guess it was four or five years ago, I said "Dr. Miller why am I doing this?" He says, "Every fifth year there's a president for five years that gets up to do this and it's a great honor."

I want to start off really...do I have slides? No. Good. Nothing to click, just my notes. Thank you, God bless you. Start off with our Councilors. Councilors are a very important part of this, as all of us know. We have two people: one who just fixed that fact that he won here, Faisal Bakaeen. Congratulations, you can come back up, or does he just stand up? Councilor, please stand. And Melanie Edwards, for Councilor nominated.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: Okay, you're ruining the suspense. No slides.

Alright, for CME Director we would

like to elect Scott LeMaire. Congratulations  
Scott.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: For Historian, someone  
who has a little experience at doing this, Dr.  
John Hammon. Congratulations to John. I know  
he's off fishing, there's no family problem, he  
just went on a vacation.

And then we get to a couple of very  
important appointments because these have the  
ability to go on, of course you all have the  
ability to go on, but they directly have the  
ability to go on to become President. What  
makes the STSA so exciting is that everybody  
knows that is used to be a death sentence to be  
Vice President. But not here, here it's  
exciting because it could be a launch pad to  
the presidency. So Vice President-Elect is  
Richard Freeman. Congratulations to you,  
Richard.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: Even a more secure  
launch pad to the presidency is the  
Secretary/Treasurer and it is my distinct honor

to nominate Shanda Blackmon,  
Secretary/Treasurer.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: And then of course the moment that is everybody is waiting for, we know Kevin Accola already as our President-Elect, so Kevin congratulations to you.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: I think I've covered everybody, am I getting it correct? Almost there, correct? Just the one.

Dr. Jones: You're doing awesome.

DR. CERFOLIO: Okay great.

So I guess as the music, and the dancers out there? No. Well, I wanted to start off by telling us about our President-Elect after Kevin. And I'll just start off telling you it is a male and that this person is an Aquarius. Does anybody know who it is? It didn't, didn't give it away with it? I'm interested. I'll also tell you that this person was born in the Northeast. An Aquarius in the Northeast. Still don't know? Alright, interesting. Thought that would help you. How

about if I tell you they were born in Yonkers? And had a predilection to musical instruments, and to fun in the sun, and running. And what if I told you that passion took that person to Miami, where graduated with a minor in religion. Does anybody know who it is yet? Oh, I see some han...but you might be wrong, you don't know. In addition, had a major in chemistry at the University of Miami and graduated in 1984. I think Cassivi said he graduated in three years, but I don't think that's true, I think that is a lie. Went on to get his MD also at the University of Miami and has been on staff there for some time. Since being there this passion has shown incredible passion to the STSA, being at every single meeting year after year. I can't even say it without getting emotional because he represents really the culture of what the STSA is about: family, the camaraderie, the Tiki Award, helping people who may need some help doing their Tiki slides, etc.

Currently is Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at the cardiovascular

program at Johns Hopkins All Children's Heart Institute, Surgical Director of the Heart Transplant Program, Editor-in-Chief of Cardiology in the Young, Chair of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Workforce, Co-Chair of the 2021 World Congress; I can't read them all. I am honored to recommend Dr. Jeffrey P. Jacobs.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: Will some presidents please escort him? Joe? Bill?

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: It's all yours Mr. President.

DR. JACOBS: Wow. This is truly the greatest professional honor of my life. I'm a little overwhelmed. The Southern Thoracic is definitely the favorite meeting for my wife and I to come to and we do come every year.

It's a great association. We support each other academically, we support each other intellectually, we learn from each other. We support each other as friends and as colleagues in fun, emotionally. What we do is hard and having colleagues like everybody in this room

to work with is a great thing. When I think about all the past presidents of this organization, I'm a little bit overwhelmed right now, and I'll do my best to live up to how great all those past presidents are. Thank you.

(Applause).

DR. CERFOLIO: Kevin, we'd like to invite you up to the stage please.

Oh, apparently we have to vote on this knuckle-head.

DR. CERFOLIO: I thought Kevin had to help us with the vote, but I'm being told no.

All in favor of the nominations?

(Motion made, seconded and approved).

DR. CERFOLIO: So passed.

(Applause).

DR. JONES: Now as the Council Chair and rid of all responsibilities of the presidency, I want to conclude the business meeting. I do want to remind everybody to try, if you have the tickets, go ahead and come to the dinner tonight. We had 104 people registered last year. We have 194 this year, so

it's going to be almost 200 people there. It's going to be a fantastic time. I'm thrilled with the new leadership for the organization, and with that I think we'll close the meeting. Thank you again.

(Applause).

(The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm).