

Minutes of the June 2nd, 2014 Executive Council Meeting

A late Spring dinner meeting of the Executive Council was held at the Capital Grille in Chestnut Hill on June 2, 2014. Attending were members Brooks, Callery, Schwaitzberg, Rubin, Chaikof, Millham, Roberts, Nauta, Watkins and Executive Director Kristen Boyer. Before dinner, everyone joined President Brooks in thanking Ms. Boyer for her continued great work in supporting the Society. He welcomed Council to an evening together with fine food, fellowship and new ideas. His warm welcome set the tone for a very productive and interactive meeting.

The meeting commenced with a review and approval of minutes from meetings of the 2013-2014 season recently ended. Dr. Brooks next drove our discussion of how the upcoming 2014-2015 schedule should create excitement for members. Again, the Council agreed that continuing with five meetings was best, and to do so again across the fine venues of the Burlington Marriott, the Cambridge Hyatt Regency, the Storrow Drive Doubletree and the Waltham Westin. The 99th Annual Meeting will be held at the Harvard Club in Boston. This venue slate though expensive has seemed to capture solid attendance. The first Monday of the month would hold, as would meeting fees.

Treasurer Frederick Millham next provided a concise written report of the Society's financial position at the end of 2013-2014. Liquid assets exceeded \$63,000, and could absorb a negative differential of \$3700 expenses over revenues. Dr. Millham again described and answered questions about the dues structure, which would remain unchanged. Upon asking Council members to reach out to any known members in arrears, a vigorous discussion ensued. The Society cannot afford to operate and support non-paying members as expenses, tax preparation, mailings, banking fees, website management and administrative fees continue to rise. Further, cost/attending member at all five meeting venues for 2013-2014 exceeded ticket fees. Without full compliance in dues payment, the financial model is not sustainable. What emerged from the discussion were specific initiatives aimed at solving the dues non-payment problem. Also, it was agreed to model financially and consider higher dinner fees for future years.

The Council next returned to discussion of potential topics and formats for meetings in the year ahead. Several outstanding speakers were proposed. Council members volunteered to assist President Brooks in reaching out, inviting and confirming dates for the proposed speakers. Next, beginning formative discussions of new Society structure and activity initiatives took place. These included a possible build-out of a formal Membership Committee, and identifying and launching giving-back/social service activities in and around the Boston community. These discussions generated enthusiasm among Council members and would continue to be explored going forward.

With no further new business requiring consideration, President Brooks thanked the Council and adjourned the meeting by 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

On November 3rd, 2014 at the Burlington Marriott Hotel, President Brooks together with nearly 70 members and guests kicked off the 2014-2015 season with a terrific meeting. After a vibrant cocktail hour and dinner, Pardon S. Kenney, MD, Chair of Surgery at the Faulkner Hospital, delivered an eye-opening lecture entitled “The Surgical Workforce: W(h)ither General Surgery?” He assessed the changing landscape of resident and fellow education in Surgery across the USA, offering his own viewpoints as well as those of other national educational leaders. Of course, his talk prompted several great questions and further discussion before the Society adjourned into a mild and calm autumn evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Boston Surgical Society was held on Monday December 8th, 2014 at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue. After a delightful and energetic social hour, President David C. Brooks brought the meeting to order with 120 members and guests present in the Club’s Main Hall.

Following Dr. Brooks’ gracious welcome and Presidential Report, Dr. Callery presented the Secretary’s Report indicating a current Society active membership of 493, with an additional six nominees for new membership this year, and stable meeting attendance levels. He appealed to all for enhanced meeting attendance and participation especially for the remaining 3 season meetings. Members and guests were pleased to learn that our Society had lost no members this year. Table top ballots were next collected by several gracious Tellers.

Dr. Frederick Millham presented the Treasurer’s Report in most encouraging terms. He detailed liquid assets exceeding \$65,000 against negligible debt indicating that recent cost containment measures as well as vigorous dues collection had helped drive a financial strengthening of the Society. Dr. Millham next indicated that the dues structure would remain unchanged, as would meeting admission fees. Once the applause quieted, he encouraged all to pay online early and to bring Resident trainees to every meeting.

President David Brooks next presented the 2015 slate of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee: for President-elect William Mackey, Vice-President Marc Rubin, Secretary Mark Callery, Treasurer Frederick Millham, Dinner Chairman Steven Schwartzberg, and Councilor Gerard Doherty. Once confirmed that there were indeed no nominees from the floor, this slate was enthusiastically moved forward and approved by voice vote.

The Tellers reported next that all six candidates for membership had been unanimously elected. The following new Boston Surgical Society members were welcomed by President Brooks, Secretary Callery, members and guests as those in attendance rose to accept certificates:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Subspecialty</u>	<u>Sponsors</u>
Christian Corwin	South Shore	General	Kwasnik/Millham
Catharine Crawford	CHAlliance	General	Schwaitzberg/Weintraub
John Froio	South Shore	General	Kwasnik/Millham
Jordan Gutweiler	Mt. Auburn	General	Ford/Nauta
Jennifer Irani	BWH	General	Brooks
Omar Kudsi	Good Samaritan	General	Jones/Schwaitzberg

Following a very enjoyable meal loud with energy and conversation, Vice-President Richard Ehrlichman rendered a sincere and honorable introduction of his colleague and friend President David C. Brooks. As members, guests and especially his family listened proudly, Dr. Brooks offered a fascinating address entitled “A Century of Fellowship”. He linked historical facts and vignettes about the Society and its members from its inception to today, highlighting 100 years of individual and collective talents. Most importantly, he emphasized how fellowship among members would be pivotal in capturing the remarkable impact of the BSS in medicine, science and education. It was a profound contribution to the history of the Society and an especially fitting closure to its first century. His audience acknowledged this with a well-deserved standing ovation and thanked him for his wonderful leadership and longstanding commitment to the Society.

The Annual Meeting concluded with a ceremonial passing of the gavel from outgoing President Brooks to incoming President Briggs, who adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

Across the historic Winter of 2015, Boston would set a new total annual snowfall record with 108.6”, and 64.9” of that buried us in February alone. Unfortunately, over 12” of that fell during a weekly blizzard on Monday February 2, 2015 forcing the cancellation of our Society meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge. Indeed, the invited presentation by James Roosevelt, CEO & President of Tufts Health Plan, was much awaited and attendance was to be high. We were not alone as the blizzard also forced the delay of the New England Patriots’ Super Bowl XLIX victory parade.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

On Monday March 2, 2015, our Society gathered at the Waltham Westin Hotel to welcome an admired Boston alumnus. Robert R. Cima, MD, Professor of Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, offered a fascinating and entertaining historical lecture. During “The Mayos, Cushing, the Italian Master, and the Bigelow Award”, Dr. Cima explained how artist P. P. Caproni would render hand casts of great surgeons at the request of Harvey Cushing, MD, including the hands of both William and Charles Mayo. Dr. Cushing would present his rationale for collecting hand casts of famous surgeons during his “Homo Chirurgicus” speech upon acceptance of the Society’s 1932 Bigelow Medal. Over 40 members and guests were dazzled by the history behind the Boston-Mayo connection. Everyone learned something new, and all were smiling as they headed back out into the winter wonderland.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

The Society concluded the 2014-2015 season meeting on Monday April 6th, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge. After cocktails and a delicious dinner, President Susan Briggs hosted a panel entitled “Innovations in Simulation Training for Surgeons of All Ages”. We heard fantastic presentations from Boston thought-leaders in education and training including Douglas S. Smink MD (BWH), Daniel B. Jones, MD (BIDMC) and John T. Mullen, MD (MGH). All topics about simulations seemed to get coverage from costs, funding, transferability and training metrics and measurement. After leading a stimulating question and answer session among the 65 members and guests present, Dr. Briggs wished everyone a well-deserved spring and summer and adjourned the season.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD