

Minutes of the June 24th, 2013 Executive Council Meeting

An early Summer dinner meeting of the Executive Council was held at the Capital Grille in Chestnut Hill on June 24th, 2013. Attending were members Nauta, Brooks, Callery, Schwaitzberg, Rubin, Chaikof, Millham, Roberts, Watkins and Executive Director Kristen Boyer. Before dinner, President Nauta thanked Ms. Boyer for her continued great work and welcomed Council to an evening together with fine food, friendship and new ideas. His warm welcome set the tone for a very productive meeting.

The meeting commenced with a review and approval of minutes from meetings of the 2012-2013 season recently ended. Dr. Nauta next drove our discussion of how the upcoming 2013-2014 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 Annual Meeting will be held at the Harvard Club in Boston. This venue slate has been cost-effective, and has seemed to capture solid attendance. The first Monday of the month would hold, as would meeting fees.

Treasurer David Brooks next provided a concise written report of the Society's financial position, which had continued to improve with his stewardship. Dr. Brooks again described and answered questions about the dues structure, which would remain unchanged. He also updated the Council on what the comparative venue costs are. He asked Council members to reach out to any known members in arrears.

The Council next returned to discussion of potential topics for meetings in the year ahead. These included a panel related to the Boston Marathon response as well as other topics including volunteerism, social media and medicine, reconciling technology in surgery, and leadership. Several potential speakers were mentioned and endorsed. Various Council members volunteered to assist President Nauta in reaching out, inviting and confirming select dates for the proposed speakers.

The Council agreed to keep pushing attendance and participation of its newest and youngest members, to get the annual application process for membership started earlier, to consider appointing a young surgeon to the Council, and a one-time waiver of the fee for a resident sponsored by a BSS member to attend the upcoming Presidential dinner.

With no further new business requiring consideration, President Nauta thanked the Council and adjourned the meeting by 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

To open the 2013-2014 season, the Society met on November 4th, 2013 at the Burlington Marriott Hotel for a very sad topic, but one forever pivotal in Boston surgical history. On Patriots Day April 2013, terrorists set off bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon while the world watched. Three died and hundreds were injured and maimed. In the aftermath, a young police officer would also be killed.

More would have died and suffered were it not for the remarkable coordinated response by so many in the Boston emergency and medical communities. Tonight, trauma leaders across our city took us back to realize and understand what happened during the panel “Triage and Cooperation Among Five Trauma Centers – The Boston Marathon 2013”. A spellbound audience of 70 members and guests listened as Jonathan Gates (BWH), Alok Gupta (BIDMC), Reuven Rabinovici (Tufts), Haytham Kaafarani (MGH), Tracey Dechert (BMC) and David Mooney (Children’s) shared their collective experiences and took questions. It was a solemn evening, but pride lifted us through sorrow, and reaffirmed to all our roles and responsibilities as surgeons.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

The 98th Annual Meeting of the Boston Surgical Society was held on Monday December 9th, 2013 at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue. After an especially vibrant welcome reception, President Russell J. Nauta brought the meeting to order with 120 members and guests present in the Club’s Main Hall.

Following Dr. Nauta’s welcome and Presidential Report, Dr. Callery presented the Secretary’s Report indicating a current Society active membership of 508, with an additional eight nominees for new membership this year, and stable meeting attendance levels. He appealed to all for enhanced meeting attendance and participation going forward, highlighting the Society’s interest in engaging residents and its youngest new members consistently. Members and guests then rose in a moment of silence to recognize four members lost this year, Drs. John Burke, Walter Kerr, Charles Thayer and Nicholas Tilney. He next appointed ballot Tellers.

Dr. Frederick Millham presented the Treasurer’s Report in most encouraging terms. He detailed the Society’s strong liquid assets, negligible debt and reiterated the focus on containing costs all while providing enjoyable venues and content across each season for the membership. To a grateful audience, Dr. Brooks again indicated that the dues structure would remain unchanged, as would meeting admission fees. He encouraged all to pay online early and to bring Resident trainees to every meeting.

Dr. Robert Shamberger next presented the 2014 slate of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee: for President-elect Susan M. Briggs, Vice-President Richard Ehrlichman, Secretary Mark Callery, Treasurer Frederick Millham, Dinner Chairman Steven Schwaitzberg, and Councilor Peter Burke. 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 eight candidates for membership had been unanimously elected. The following new Boston Surgical Society members were welcomed by President Nauta, Secretary Callery, members and guests as they rose to accept certificates and Red Books:

Candidate	Institution	Subspecialty	Sponsors
Kathryn Butler	BIDMC	Acute Care	Callery/Chaikof
Jason Hall	Lahey	Colorectal	Roberts/Schoetz
Kari Kansal	BIDMC	Surg Onc	Callery/Tseng
Victor Pricolo	Southcoast	General	Rattner/Shellito
Kristen Raven	BIDMC	Transplant	Nauta/Boyd
Thomas Schnelldorfer	Lahey	General	Birkett/Brams
Michael Yaffe	BIDMC	Acute Care	Callery/Chaikof
Daniel Yeh	MGH	Acute Care	Rattner/Velmahos

Following a lovely dinner during which guests continued to arrive, Vice-President William Mackey rendered a sincere and noble introduction of his colleague and friend President Russell J. Nauta, as his family listened proudly. Dr. Nauta next offered a fascinating and personal address entitled “Chance Events and Planning in the Training of Mules“. Combining memoirs, struggles and victories from an epitome career as a general surgeon, President Nauta sought to reconcile many of the disparate issues today surfacing in discussions of the future of general surgery and the advising of trainees. He spoke of mentorship representing generosity, opportunities more often linked to serendipity than planning, and the undeniable value of hard work. Finally, he thanked Claire and their two children for their endless love and support. A standing ovation followed for President Nauta’s address, but more for his guiding leadership and commitment to the Society.

The Annual Meeting concluded with ceremonial passing of the gavel from outgoing President Nauta to incoming President Brooks, who adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

On Monday February 10, 2014, the Society convened at the Doubletree Hotel on Storrow Drive to welcome a true legend in surgery and cancer care, Murray F. Brennan, MD of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. During his one-of-a-kind address entitled “Evolution of Cancer Care”, 112 members and guests heard Dr. Brennan chronicle decades of care for thousands of sarcoma patients, demonstrating how evidence-based changes in care realized over time have become today’s standards. Further, he offered parallel lessons learned in the progress of surgical care for other types of cancer. Of course, this led to a long and spirited discussion. The highlight of the evening though was the presentation of the Bigelow Medal to Dr. Brennan by President Brooks on behalf of the Boston Surgical Society, and the standing ovation that followed.



Mark P. Callery, MD

On Monday March 3, 2014, our Society welcomed Jo Buyske, MD, Associate Executive Director of the American Board of Surgery to its meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge. Sixty members and guests listened attentively as she discussed surgical volunteerism and outreach in her lecture entitled “Service in Surgery”. Dr. Buyske reminded the audience of how uniquely suited surgeons are to help and touch those in need around the world. She quoted WHO statistics to indicate that the poorest one-third of the world receives less than 5% of surgery performed each year. We learned of hospitals doing their best to cope and perform despite intermittent electricity and unreliable running water. It was an inspiring evening sure to motivate many to give back through service in surgery.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD

The Society concluded the 2013-2014 season meeting on Wednesday April 2, 2014 at the Waltham Westin Hotel. After a vibrant cocktail hour and spirited dinner, 52 members and guests welcomed invited lecturer and friend James C. Hebert, MD, the Mackay-Page Professor of Surgery at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. As the recipient of several prestigious education awards during his career and past Chair of the Surgery RRC, Dr. Hebert was uniquely qualified to speak on “Outcomes-Based Resident Education: Training Surgeons for the Future”. Covering many topics from milestones to clinical competencies to the rigors of residency accreditation, it was a practical, substantive and compelling lecture delivered by a true authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Callery, MD