

**The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Saturday, January 30, 2021
Herbinger Ballroom, Westin Kierland
Scottsdale, Arizona**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order at 11:45 AM with President Gilbert Upchurch presiding.

The minutes for the 2020 Annual Business Meeting at the The Breakers, Palm Beach, Florida as written in the Spring Newsletter were approved without dissent.

Secretary-Treasurer Report of the Executive Council

The Executive Council of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 4:03 PM with President Gib Upchurch presiding. The minutes from the Executive Council meeting held via Zoom on June 8, 2020 were reviewed and approved

PR/RI Report:

April Abenilla, Meeting Coordinator from PR/RI, Inc., presented a written and oral report via telephone.

Registration

As of January 26, we had 35 members, 3 candidate members, 4 guest physicians, 1 non-member presenting author, and 2 residents registered for in-person meeting while we also had 81 members, 8 candidate members, 8 guest physicians, 36 non-member presenting authors, and 9 residents registered for the virtual meeting. There were 19 guests included for in-person bringing total registration to 208 people.

There were also 28 exhibit personnel with 7 different companies and 2 virtual companies pre-registered.

Hotel Contract

The reduced contracted room block at the Westin was 202 sleeping room nights. On January 18 we had picked up 239 room nights. We obviously do not anticipate any attrition problems for 2020.

Industry Support

This year we have successfully generated unrestricted educational grants for meeting support and marketing support as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Boston Scientific	\$ 7,500	\$10,000
Cook Incorporated	\$20,000	\$20,000

Endologix, Inc.	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Medtronic	\$20,000	\$20,000
Penumbra	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Terumo Aortic	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
W.L. Gore & Associates	<u>\$24,000**</u>	<u>\$30,000</u>
TOTAL	\$76,500	\$93,000

**** plus \$30,000 for Mock orals that has NOT yet been expensed**

Exhibits

We have obtained contracts from 7 companies (*1 complimentary*) to exhibit at this year's meeting. AIROS Medical, Osborn Medical Corporation, Centerline Biomedical, Silk Road Medical, Gore & Associates, Inc, Terumo Cardiovascular Group, MTF Biologics

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

2022: FLORIDA

The 46th Annual Meeting will be **January 19-22, 2022** at the Eau Palm Beach in Manalapan, Florida. We have a guaranteed room rate of **\$319.00** single/double occupancy night plus 12.27% state and local taxes bringing the rate to **\$358.14** per night.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

While Puerto Rico has been the planned location for this meeting, there remains concern about the infrastructure on the island. April plans to review other off shore sites and provide more options to be determined at the June meeting. There was also discussion about the offshore location vs some other state in our region. Some companies have expressed concern about the location of our meeting and the meeting venues. These concerns will be further reviewed and discussed at next EC meeting.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The 49th Annual Meeting will be **January 24-27, 2024** back at The Westin Kierland in Scottsdale, Arizona. We have a guaranteed room rate of **\$339.00** single/double occupancy night plus 12.57% state and local taxes bringing the rate to **\$381.61** per night plus an optional daily resort fee \$20.00 plus tax per room per night.

Secretary-Treasurer Report on Membership and Finance:

Current Membership:

326 active members
152 of whom are senior members

170 retired members
153 candidate members (9 candidate members “converted” to active members in last 5 years)
21 honorary members

5 members will advance to senior status in January after the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The membership Committee will be recommending 10 members (40% female) for active membership and 18 candidate members.

Missed Meetings:

Twenty-seven (27) active junior members have missed two or more consecutive meetings. They were notified that they must attend the 2021 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership. Nineteen (19) of these active members are currently registered – 4 live, 15 virtual and one member has requested an excused absence, while seven (7) have not responded.

Moved to Inactive:

Seventy-nine (79) members are in arrears of dues. Four members are past due for unusual circumstances, and 15 are new in the last 3 years and working through the payment logistics. Members who were more than 2 years in arrears or unexcused absence for 3 meetings or more were moved to the inactive status creating a reduced total membership to 326.

Geography:

There are 43 active members currently residing out of the geographic area of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery, representing 13.2% of the total active membership, within the 15% requirement from our recent change in the bylaws.

Necrology:

Six senior members died during the last year: George Skardasis of Georgia, Ward O. Griffen of Michigan, John A. Mannick of Massachusetts, Ernest Poulos of Texas, Francis Robicsek (founding member) of North Carolina, G. Melville Williams (founding member and past president) of Maryland. The members stood and observed a moment of silence.

Treasury:

As of December 31, 2020, the total financial assets of the Association were:
\$612,372.40

Treasurer’s Fund: \$386,609.45 Wells Fargo Checking (December 31, 2020)
 \$100,593.99 TD Bank Checking (December 31, 2020)
 \$125,168.96 Jesse Thompson CD (December 31, 2020)

The total Association assets have decreased by \$93,564.64 since last year. This reflects some fall in dues paid and decreased meeting revenue, potentially related to the COVID19 pandemic.

This compares to:

\$702,564.60 on December 31, 2019
\$767, 486.91 on December 31, 2018
\$712,910.25 on December 31, 2017
\$589,035.54 on December 31, 2016

Local Arrangements Committee:

Local Arrangements Committee Chair Claudie Sheahan was present and provided an oral report.

Considering the current pandemic, the sporting events were cancelled. However, opportunities were presented to those present, but no formal competition was offered.

The other social events included socially distanced Welcome reception on Wednesday, Cocktail reception on Thursday, and the President's reception on Friday.

Archives Committee Report:

Chair Moore was present and provided an oral report. The Committee had approved Bruce Perler as the Matas Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Budget Committee Report:

Budget Committee Chair Sheehan was absent but provided a written report. Currently SAVS assets total \$612, 372.32. Budgeted expenses including contributions and PRRI Management total \$71515. Revenue budgeted from membership dues is \$73K however only \$52K has been thus far collected. Therefore adjusted assets are \$59,2857.32. This is prior to the 2021 meeting and any accrued expenses or revenue. Our current financial status is favorable and stable although will need to be assessed after the meeting to determine the effects of the pandemic on the usual revenue and expenses for the society.

Communications Committee Report:

Sam Tyagi, Chair of the Communications Committee was present and provided a written report. The Newsletter did not have a Fall 2020 edition. The society's twitter account is active. The account is linked to savs@prri.com such that they can maintain access securely. As of January 18, 2021, we follow 245 other accounts (28, 12 months ago). We have 788 followers (450, 12 months ago) so the growth is positive. To put in context the Eastern Vascular Society follows 161 accounts and has 734 followers. The SVS follows 598 accounts and has 7,550 followers.

Report of Representative to Vascular Surgery Board

Representative Thomas Huber was present and provided a written and oral report.

The VSB retreat was held as virtual meeting in September 2020. The highlights of the progress of the VSB are outlined here:

1. The Continuous certification exam was successfully administered last fall
2. The canceled Sept 2020 Vascular Surgery QE is now rescheduled for April 12, 2021 at Pearson VUE testing centers.
3. The rescheduled 2020 Certifying Examination was successfully administered on 1/1/2021 and 1/13/2021. The 2021 Certifying Examination has been scheduled for July 13 – 14.
4. The VSB is working with the APDVS to re-define case minimums, entrustable professional activities, and a VSCORE curriculum for fellowships and residencies.
5. The VSB is working with the American Venous Forum regarding a request for a focused practice designation in venous disease.

The full report will be posted the website.

Representative to SVS Executive Council:

Representative Freeman was present and provided an oral and written report.

The SVS Strategic Board of Directors held their annual retreat on January 8-9, 2021 as a virtual meeting. This report summarizes highlights of this meeting focusing particularly on those relevant to the Southern Association and its members.

1. The SVS has grown to more than 6500 members, with the largest growth in the affiliate group.
2. The society continues to pursue objectives of advocacy, public policy and branding.
3. There was some success in stalling the Medicare pay cuts that was vigorously promoted by the SVS
4. Vascular Annual Meeting has been moved to August to improve better attendance anticipated from the COVID19 pandemic

The full report will be posted on the website.

Government Relations Committee Report:

Chair Tracci was present and provided an oral and written report. She reported on several important issues that are pending for 2021.

1. Physician Payment – including a relief payment of 3.75% for 2021
2. Reducing Physician Administrative Burden
3. COVID-19 response with Paycheck Protection Program for practices
4. Regulatory Response for Proposed Rules
5. Advocacy as coordinated with the SVS
6. GME workforce, including debt repayment for trainees

Her full report will be posted on the society website.

Ad Hoc Diversity Committee Report:

Committee Chair Shortell was present and provided a written and oral report.

The Diversity committee met by conference call over the summer and then with the Council by Zoom in August. Based upon those meetings, the following changes were made:

1. The SAVS attestation on the website was changed to say, “The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery pledges to promote diversity and inclusion for its members and patient constituents and oppose hate through active allyship, continuous unlearning, learning, and listening.”
2. Recruitment scholarships were suggested to include at least 25% under represented groups – though there were 50% at last years meeting
3. A demographic survey was circulated to the membership but we only have 35% response rate to date.
4. A segment of the Scientific session was dedicated to topics on diversity – 3 such papers were presented this year.
5. Continue to provide broadly appealing local arrangements, social activities.
6. Initiate a Diversity lunch/breakfast that would be postponed to the 2022 meeting considering the limited attendance at this year’s meeting

Ad Hoc Committee for Student and Resident Scholarships:

Malachi Sheahan, Committee Chair, was present and provided an oral report:

The program has been succesful over the last 4 years, but considering the current pandemic, neither student or resident scholarhsips were granted this year. Instead there was a call for “virtual” schoalrships for which we received 65 applications and 40 were granted. Recipients were awarded virtual access for the 2021 meeting and there is a planned recruitment and vascular orientation virtual meeting planned for February

Note, the APDVS continues to support the program with a \$7000 grant to be used for recruitment of students and residents who have not yet chosen a career in vascular surgery.

New Business:

Terumo Aortic has sent a request to work with the SAVS to coordinate a fellows competition for the best presentation on a case of treating aortic disease. They have proposed that the SAVS promote a regional competition to select 2 winners who will be promoted to a national

competition for the best presentation. Said winners will also be awarded a travel scholarship to our annual meeting. More details are to follow with a plan for discussion at the June Council meeting for potential event to be held in fall 2021.

There being no further new business, the Executive Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Membership Committee

Chair Smith was absent but Secretary Jordan provided his report:

The committee reviewed 12 applications for Active Membership. The Executive Council approved 12 members for active member status, with the last 2 applicants awaiting confirmation of their ABS certification.

Allen, Robert "Bo"
Bailey, Charles
Boll, Julia
Estella, Brooke
Chawa, Amit
Hicks, Caitlyn
Jayakumar, Lalithapriya
Mahjan, Anuj
Skibba, Afshin
Zea, Nicholas
Lavingia, Kedar – pending certification
Liang, Tiffany – pending certification

The committee reviewed 18 applications for Candidate Membership. The committee concluded all of the following applicants are trainees at regional vascular surgery training programs or recent graduates practicing in the SAVS region, meet the appropriate criteria for Candidate Membership and recommend their approval:

Clapper, Nicholas
Fowler, Brett
Gaillard, William
Grant, Michael
Harrison, Jon Brannon
Hunter, Justin
Kanneganti, Manasa
Kohler, Kaleb
Low, Matthew
Manley, Justin
Mann, Nolan
Masabni, Khalil
Murter, Nolan
Olivia, Dariam
Patel, Nimish
Sastriques-Dunlap, Sergio
Tingjin, Joseph
Weaver, Libby

The Council approved all listed members for Candidate membership.

Recorder Report:

Recorder Cull was present and provided his report:

Thirty-three manuscripts (n=25 plenary session, n=6 non-plenary clinical, n=1 award paper, and n=1 presidential address) were submitted for publication to the Journal of Vascular Surgery from the 2020 Annual Meeting. All plenary session presentations submitted manuscripts to the Journal for publication. Editorial decisions by the Journal of Vascular Surgery have been completed for all but 4 manuscripts. One manuscript was returned to the author by the Journal. The overall acceptance percentage (excluding those without final decision) for submitted manuscripts is 65% for the plenary session manuscripts and 69% for all manuscripts. This approximates the acceptance percentage of previous years. A complete breakdown of the submissions is provided in the table at the end of this report.

The winner of the 2021 Founder's Award is Dr. John J. Squiers from Baylor Scott & White The Heart Hospital for his paper entitled "Machine Learning Analysis of Multispectral Imaging and Clinical Risk Factors to Predict Amputation Wound Healing".

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Council decided to shorten the SAVS Annual Meeting by eliminating the mock oral exam. Instead, the Council approved a virtual mock oral exam scheduled separate from the Annual Meeting. The exam is scheduled for Saturday February 13 from 7:00-12:00.

He concluded his report with a special thanks for those participating in the Mock Oral exam by dedicating their time to this important activity. He acknowledge the success of our program has been related to the commitment of the SAVS members.

Program Committee

Chair Hurie was by phone and provided the following report:

A total of **139** abstracts were submitted for consideration by the program committee. The program committee consisted of: Hernan Bazan, David L. Cull, Salvatore T. Scali, Gib Upchurch and Will Jordan. The mean score of all the abstracts reviewed was 3.5 (scale 1-5). Of the 153 abstracts, 14 were submitted for consideration for the Founders Award, 27 were submitted for case reports and 7 were submitted as videos.

A total of 52 abstracts were selected for presentation. The breakdown is as follows:

23 free papers

4 rapid fires

- 4 case reports
- 3 videos
- 1 Founders Award paper
- 17 posters accepted (2 withdrew)

The program committee considered both the score of the abstracts as well as content when putting together the program. An effort was made to ensure the program was balanced and that all areas of vascular surgery were represented on the program.

Continuing Medical Education Committee –

Chair Corriere was present and provided an oral report:

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery Education Committee coordinated a post-graduate course titled , “COMPETING, COLLABORATING, AND NEGOTIATING ACROSS PRACTICE AREAS AND ENVIRONMENTS SYMPOSIUM.” The course included recorded and live presentations regarding hemodialysis, venous disease, PAD, aortic disease and practice management. The twelve faculty included 6 speakers who were URGs and 5 female members.

Audit Committee Report:

Member Jean Ruddy provided an oral report. Along with the other members of the committee (Dennis Gable and Ben Pearce), they concluded the finances were in good order with no irregular activity.

Recognition of Outgoing Councilor-at-Large:

President Upchurch recognized and thanked Councilor Patrick Stone of Nashville for his three years of service on the Council and provided him with a plaque commemorating his service. Dr. Stone was not present due to travel restrictions but sent his regards.

Recognition of President Upchurch and his service by Nominating Committee:

Past President Endean provided the following report:

Dr. Endean thanked the organization for the opportunity to have served in a leadership role. Lastly, he recognized Dr. Gilbert Upchurch for his collective years of service to the organization culminating this past year as our President. He has helped shaped our direction can take a great deal of pride in the current condition of the organization. He presented him with ceremonial gavel in recognition of serving as the President.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Past Presidents Sternbergh, Money, and Endean met along with Ad Hoc Members President Upchurch and Secretary-Treasurer

Jordan convened on a conference call December 22, 2020. They reviewed the charge and discussed the potential officer candidates. The Committee unanimously proposed that Councilor Kirkwood be put forward as nominee for her respective current positions. Furthermore, the Nominating Committee thanked them for their selfless effort on behalf of the organization. The Committee proposed William A Marston as President, William D. Jordan, Jr as President elect, Adam Beck as Secretary-Treasurer, Margaret Tracci as Recorder, Ravi Veeraswamy as Councilor for a 3 year term, Ellen Dillavou as Councilor for a 2 year term to fulfill the role that was vacated by Dr. Tracci if she assumes role of Recorder.

As there were no further nominations from the floor. President Upchurch sought approval from the present members and the nominations were approved with unanimous consent without nominations from the floor. President Upchurch then installed William A. Marston as the 46th President of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery and passed him the Matas and Nashville gavels. President-elect Marston accepted his role as President and expressed his thanks for the honor of serving. He also recognized the work of President Upchurch for the prior year of service.

President Martson then announced his following committee appointments:

Budget and Finance Committee:	Kristofer Charlton-Ouw, Houston, TX
CME Committee:	Leila Mureebe, Durham, NC
Government Relations:	Yazan Duwayri, Atlanta, GA
Local Arrangements:	Claudie Sheahan, New Orleans, LA
Membership Committee:	Kate McGinagle, Chapel Hill, NC
Program Committee:	Murray Shames, Tampa, FL

There being no further new business, the Business Meeting was adjourned by President Marston at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



William D. Jordan, Jr. M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer