

**PACIFIC COAST SURGICAL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2003
The Monterey Plaza Hotel, Monterey, California**

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Russell at 11:00 AM.

Approval of 2002 Minutes:

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the 2002 Executive Session submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Cornelius Olcott.

Announcements:

Dr. Russell announced the death of the following members of the PCSA: Donald F. Brayton, C. James Carrico, Albert G. Clark, R. Cameron Harrison, Robert Jamplis, Joseph W. Nadal, Victor Richards, G. Edward Schnug, C. Hunter Shelden and David Tapper. A moment of silence was observed.

Introduction of New Members:

As per our recent change in protocol, the new members were introduced following the President's Address. However, Dr. Russell formally welcomed all new members at this time. This years new members included:

Kenneth S. Azarow	WA/BC/AK
Ramon Berguer	N. Calif.
Anton J. Bilchik	S. Calif.
Stephen W. Chung	WA/BC/AK
Frederick M. Dirbas	N. Calif.
Gregory R. D. Evans	S. Calif.
Diana L. Farmer	N. Calif.
Douglas G. Farmer	S. Calif.
Chris E. Freise	N. Calif.
Carlos A. Garberoglio	S. Calif.
Rafik M. Ghobrial	S. Calif.
H. Roger Hadley	S. Calif.
Hung S. Ho	N. Calif.
David Jablons	N. Calif.
Peter F. Lawrence	S. Calif.
Michael E. Lekawa	S. Calif.
Richard V. Perez	N. Calif.
Charles P. Theuer	S. Calif.
Henry Ward Trueblood	N. Calif.
Raymond S. Yeung	WA/BC/AK
David Ming Young	N. Calif.

President's Report:

Dr. Russell thanked the membership for the privilege of serving as President. He also thanked the Arrangements Committee and the PCSA Council for all the work they did to make this a successful meeting.

Recorder's Report:

Dr. Wilson reported that there has been a decline in the number of abstracts over the past several years. Sixty-seven abstracts were submitted this year. The recent maximum number of abstracts was 98 in 1999. However, the quality has remained good and we continue to select 24 high quality papers to present at the annual meeting. Dr. Wilson also presented the distribution of the abstracts by specialty and geographic distribution.

Dr. Wilson reported that those authors that elected to present papers in the poster sessions have the option of submitting a paper for consideration for publication by the *Archives of Surgery*.

Dr. Wilson reported that we are converting to electronic submission of abstracts and that all presentations at the scientific sessions will be by PowerPoint.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Olcott reported the membership analysis. We welcomed 21 new members this year and now have 204 total active members and 234 retired members. Under the new bylaws we can have 230 active members.

Dr. Olcott reported that we continue to have a problem with members who do not attend meetings and/or do not pay dues. He again stressed that the Council has approved termination of membership for those who do not abide by the bylaws relative to meeting attendance and payment of dues.

Dr. Olcott reported that we are doing well financially. As of December 2002, we have \$382,216 in the bank. This meets the guidelines for having two years reserves available. It is anticipated that this year's meeting was on budget and that we will not have to use our reserves.

Dr. Olcott reported that we now have a functioning website. Dr. Traverso, Chairman of the Website Committee, will address the association later in the meeting.

Historian's Report:

No report given.

Report – American Board of Surgery:

Dr. Bruce Stabile's report is attached.

Report – Board of Governors, ACS:

Dr. Bill Traverso's report is attached.

Report – Advisory Council for General Surgery, ACS:

Dr. Tom Berne's report is attached. Dr. Hart gave the report in Dr. Berne's absence.

Dr. Russell formally thanked Drs. Traverso and Berne for their contributions over the past years. Both are completing their second term in these offices. Dr. Quan Duh will replace Dr. Traverso. Dr. Michael Hart will replace Dr. Berne.

Local Arrangements Committee:

Dr. Schecter thanked Dr. Grey for his contribution to the arrangements. He also thanked Dr. Russell, DMC and the hotel staff for an excellent job helping to arrange the meeting. Dr. Schecter also recognized each member of his committee for their contributions.

Dr. Schecter reported that, from a financial viewpoint, the meeting went well. Contributions from industry were at a record level - \$47,500. It is anticipated that we will come in on budget.

Old Business:

1. Bylaws change: Dr. Olcott reported that the Council recommends changing Article III, section 3 of the Constitution. The change would decrease the waiting time from completion of residency/fellowship to eligibility for membership from 5 to 2 years. This will encourage younger surgeons to apply for membership. (A copy of the exact change is included in this mailing as required by Article VIII of the Constitution.)
2. CME credits: Dr. Olcott reported that CME accreditation is being obtained through the ACS. This has proven to be an excellent partnership as the ACS has been very accommodating in working with us to secure CME approval. This meeting qualifies for 13.5 category I credits.
3. Industry support: Dr. Russell reported that support from industry has been excellent. We raised \$47,500 this year. Dr. Russell continued the tradition of having a recognition luncheon for sponsors. This was very well received.
4. Dues: Dr. O'Connell recommended that we increase dues by \$20. This was moved, seconded and approved by members in attendance.
5. Caucus support: Dr. Olcott reported that the Council has approved \$5/member support for each caucus. This will help defray the cost of the caucus meeting.

New Business:

1. Audit Committee: Dr. Yee reported that the Audit Committee has reviewed the financial records of the Association and found them to be in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Dr. Yee's report.
2. Honorarium for Recorder and Secretary-Treasurer: An honorarium of \$1,000 was approved for the Recorder and Secretary-Treasurer.
3. Future Meetings: Dr. Russell reported that next year's meeting will be at the Fairmont Kea Lani in Maui and the 2005 meeting will be at the Ritz-Carlton in Laguna Niguel.
4. Website: Dr. Traverso reported that a Website Committee has been appointed and met for the first time following the Council meeting Saturday. This will allow the membership to communicate with the Council and with DMC. It will also allow electronic distribution of forms, e.g. registration and abstract. Posters can be placed on the site as well. The Council approved a two year budget for

construction and maintenance of the website. This will include a "members only" section that will be password protected.

5. Arrangements Committee: Dr. Olcott reported that the Council has approved changing the composition of the committee to include former chairs. Therefore there will be four members, one from each region, with the most senior in charge of the current year's meeting. It is believed that this will maximize communication from year to year.

Election of New Members:

All 16 members submitted for consideration by the Council were approved by the members in attendance. These include:

John T. Anderson, M.D.	N. Calif.
Michael T. Caps, M.D.	OR/HI
Marianne Cinat, M.D.	S. Calif.
Harkness S. Floten, M.D.	OR/HI
Ralph S. Greco, M.D.	N. Calif.
Jon M. Greif, M.D.	S. Calif.
Paul D. Hansen, M.D.	OR/HI
Douglas B. Hood, M.D.	S. Calif.
David K. Imagawa, M.D.	S. Calif.
Stephen G. Jolley, M.D.	WA/BC/AK
Kimberly S. Kirkwood, M.D.	N. Calif.
Daniel J. Ledbetter, M.D.	WA/BC/AK
James A. Murray, M.D.	S. Calif.
Ninh T. Nguyen, M.D.	S. Calif.
Eric D. Skarsgard, M.D.	WA/BC/AK
Laurence F. Yee, M.D.	N. Calif.

Nominating Committee Report:

The report was given by Dr. Ted O'Connell. The following were recommended by the committee:

Recorder	Fred Weaver
President-Elect, 2006	Neil Olcott

All of the recommendations were approved unanimously by the members in attendance.

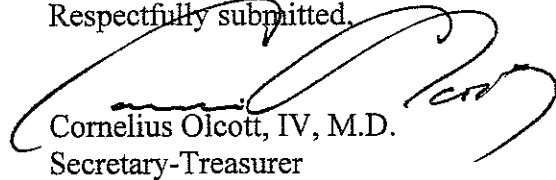
Induction of New President:

Dr. Russell welcomed Dr. Livingston Wong to the podium.

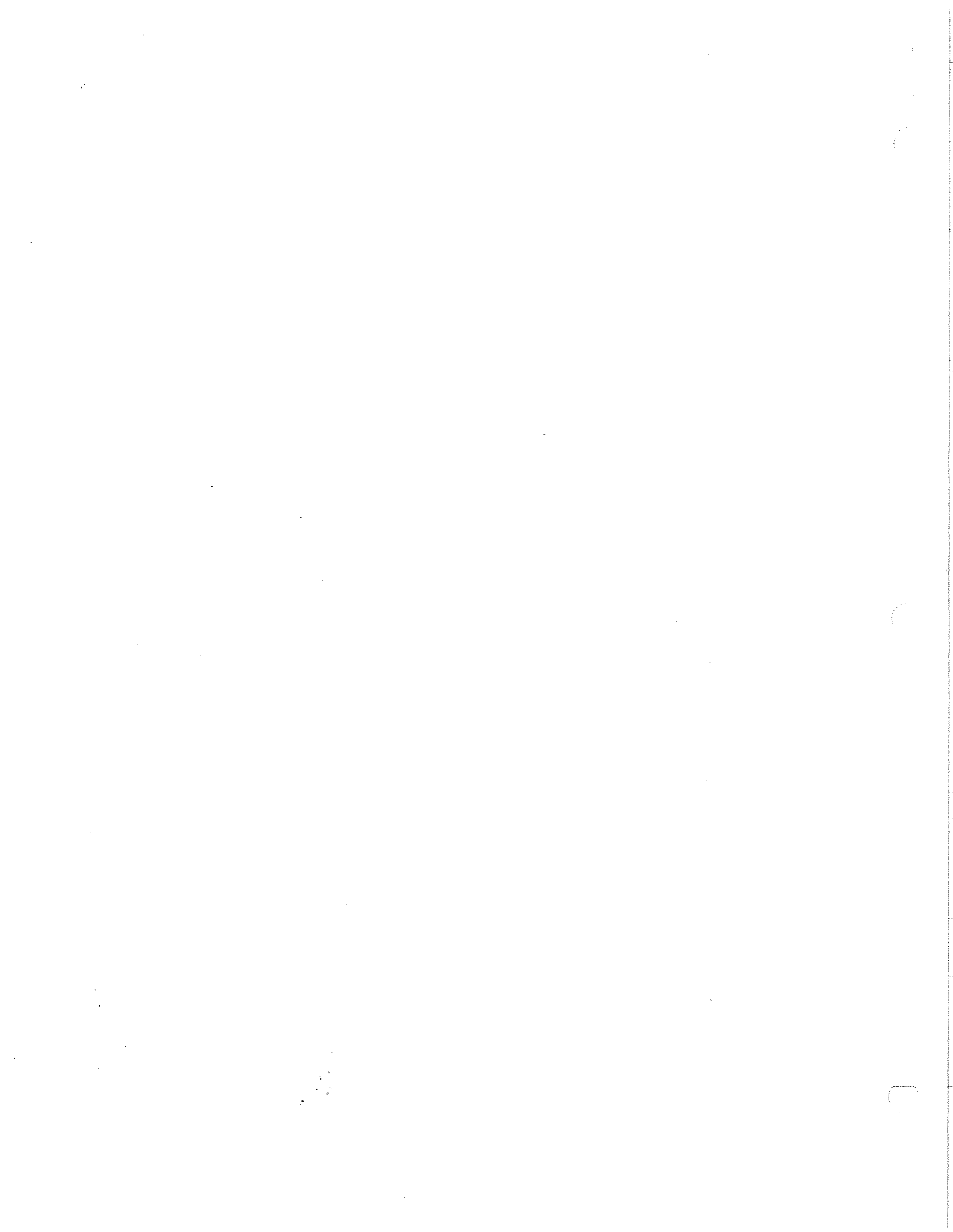
Dr. Wong thanked Dr. Russell and the Arrangements Committee for an excellent meeting and invited the membership to attend next year's meeting in Hawaii

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Wong.

Respectfully submitted,



Cornelius Olcott, IV, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer



PACIFIC COAST SURGICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2003

The Monterey Plaza Hotel, Monterey, California

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tom Russell at 8:30 AM.

Members present:

Thomas R. Russell – President
Livingston M. Wong – President Elect 2004
Samuel E. Wilson – President Elect 2005/Recorder
William Schecter – Vice-President
Ted O’Connell – Past President
Cornelius Olcott – Secretary-Treasurer
Geoffrey C. Nunes – Historian
Orlo H. Clark – Councilor, Northern California
Michael J. Hart - Councilor, Washington/British Columbia/Alaska
Ronald G. Latimer – Councilor, Southern California
James J. Peck – Councilor, Oregon/Hawaii
Thomas Berne/Michael Hart – Representative Advisory Council for General
Surgery, ACS
William Traverso/Quan-Yang Duh – Representative Board of Governors, ACS
Bruce Stabile – Representative American Board of Surgery
Claude Organ – Archives of Surgery

Guest present:

Doug Grey – Arrangements Chair, 2003

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the 2002 Council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Secretary-Treasurer reported the deaths of the following members:

Donald F. Brayton	Joseph W. Nadal
C. James Carrico	Victor Richards
Albert G. Clark	G. Edward Schnug
R. Cameron Harrison	C. Hunter Shelden
Robert W. Jamplis	David Tapper

REPORTS:

President's Report:

Dr. Russell welcomed the Council to Monterey and thanked the Council and the Arrangements Committee for their role in organizing the meeting.

Dr. Russell reported that he elected not to invite a guest speaker but did invite Dr. Warshaw to participate in the panel on surgical practice.

American Board of Surgery

Dr. Stabile gave his report on the activity of the American Board of Surgery. A copy of his report is included in the Council binder. Significant issues included:

1. Initiative to create an Early Specialization Program (ESP) in general surgery residency training.
2. Development of a program for Maintenance of Certification.

Board of Governors, ACS

Dr. Traverso's report is in the Council binder. Dr. Traverso thanked the Council/Association for the privilege of serving on the Board of Governors.

Advisory Council for General Surgery, ACS

Dr. Berne's report is in the Council binder. Dr. Berne also thanked the Council/Association for the privilege of serving in the advisory Council.

Dr. Berne's report emphasized:

1. Resident work hours
2. Guidelines for hospital privileges for vascular surgery
3. Spring meeting

Archives of Surgery

Dr. Organ was present this year. His report is included in the Council binder.

Dr. Organ stressed the need for an on-sight stenographer. This greatly expedites the processing of the discussions and speeds up publication of our papers. Dr. Organ provided phone numbers that PCSA members can use if they have problems receiving the Archives. This has been a particular problem for our Canadian members.

Historian's Report

Dr. Nunes' report is in the Council binder.

Recorder's Report

A copy of Dr. Wilson's report is in the council binder.

Dr. Wilson reported that he will be retiring as Recorder after this meeting. He thanked the Council/Association for the privilege of serving as the Recorder.

The issue of "Community Hospital" papers was raised again. Dr. Wilson stated that these papers were encouraged but would be judged on their merits. The possibility of industry support for such paper(s) was discussed. No action was taken.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Dr. Olcott gave the Secretary-Treasurer's report. A copy of the membership analysis and a summary of the financial records and audit/review is included in the Council binder.

The Council decided to instruct our accountants to perform a full audit next year. It was recommended that an audit be performed prior to the completion of each Treasurer's term and on other occasions as deemed appropriate by the treasurer or the Council.

Dr. Olcott reported that the contract with DMC ends in June this year. Dr. Olcott will discuss with Suzanne Wyatt regarding a new contract.

Arrangement Committee Chairman's Reports

2002: Dr. O'Connell gave this years report. A copy of the report is in the Council binder. Total attendance was 350, 165 were members. Profit for the meeting was \$3,195.

2003: Drs. Schecter and Grey reported on the arrangements for this year's meeting. A copy of their report is included in the Council binder. Industry support has been outstanding. To date \$47,500 has been raised. Attendance looks good and we appear to be on budget.

Following Dr. Grey's report the Council discussed the need to improve communication between the annual arrangements committees. It was recommended that we restructure the arrangements committee so that it resembles the program committee, i.e. have four members representing each caucus. One member would retire and be replaced annually. This will maximize retention of information within the committee.

2004: Dr. Wong reported that the 2004 meeting will be in Maui at the Fairmont Kea Lani. All rooms are small suites at about \$285/day. Information regarding the resort and the Arrangements Committee are included in the binder.

2005: Dr. Wilson reported that he and the Southern California caucus had investigated multiple venues and had narrowed it down to the Ritz Carlton at Dana Point and the Four Seasons in Newport Beach. They Finally decided on the Ritz Carlton. Room rate is expected to be \$295.

Old Business

1. Bylaws review (Dr. Olcott): Dr. Olcott recommended that the Constitution, Article III (3) be revised. This would allow younger candidates to be considered for membership. The revision would read

“ No candidate may be considered for membership until a minimum of ~~five~~ *two* years after his/her residency and fellowship (if applicable) have been completed...”

The Council agreed to forward this revision to the membership for approval. The Secretary/Treasurer will send this out in written form to the membership prior to the next meeting.

The Council also reviewed the issue of meeting fees for retired members Chapter XII (2). The Council recommended that the fee assessed for retired members be determined by the Secretary/Treasurer prior to each meeting.

2. CME credits (Dr. Olcott): Dr. Olcott reported the ACS will now co-sponsor the meeting and issue CME credits. This is a new role for the ACS, but is very beneficial for regional societies and provides this service at less cost.
3. Industry support (Dr. Russell): Industry support was excellent this year, \$47,500. The Council recommended that we continue to solicit industry support and that we investigate ways to increase meeting support, e.g. sell advertisements in the program book. The Sponsor Appreciation luncheon started last year by Ted O'Connell has proven very popular with the industry representatives. The council agreed to continue this event
4. President's Guest speaker (Dr. Olcott): Dr. Olcott reviewed this issue which was first raised by Dr. O'Connell last year. It was the consensus of the Council that the decision as to whether or not to have a guest speaker be left to the discretion of the President.
5. Dues increase (Dr. O'Connell): Dr. O'Connell recommended and the Council approved a dues increase to \$220/year effective immediately. This was approved by the Council.
6. Electronic abstract submission and PowerPoint presentations (Dr. Wilson): We are converting to electronic submission of all abstracts. Starting this year, all presentations will be PowerPoint.
7. Caucus support (Dr. Olcott): Dr. Olcott reviewed this issue which was approved by the Council last year. The Council instructed Dr. Olcott to issue funds to each caucus annually to assist with the cost of the caucus meeting. This will be \$5.00 per member, active or retired.

New Business

1. Audit Committee: Dr. Russell appointed Drs. Franklin Yee, George Thomas and Mervyn Burke to the Audit Committee

2. Resignations/re-locations: The Council voted to accept the resignations of Drs. Hardesty, Kavolius, Parsa and Robie. The Council voted to accept the request for conversion to non-resident status for the following: Drs. Adye, Gentilello, Pohlson and Weigel.
3. Excuses: the Council voted to accept letters of excuse from the following: Drs. Bodily, Chung, Jablons, Moss, R. White and Young.
4. Honorarium: The Council approved an honorarium of \$1,000 for both the Recorder and the Secretary-Treasurer.
5. Website: Dr. Traverso gave a very interesting presentation on the status of the PCSA website. A Website Committee, chaired by Dr. Traverso, has been appointed to work on the website and to make it meet the needs of the association. The Council approved a budget of \$5,370 for establishing and maintaining the website over the next 2 years. This will include the establishment of a "members only" area. It is anticipated that the website will be used for communication with the membership, submission of abstracts, publication of abstracts and posters and membership database.

Nomination of New Members:

The Council reviewed all the applications for membership. The following applicants (16) were approved and forwarded to the Executive Session for approval:

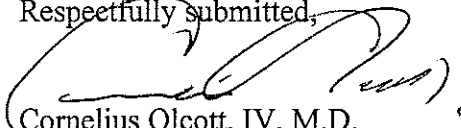
John T. Anderson, M.D.	N. Calif.
Michael T. Caps, M.D.	OR/HI
Marianne Cinat, M.D.	S. Calif.
Harkness S. Floten, M.D.	OR/HI
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Paul D. Hansen, M.D.	OR/HI
Douglas B. Hood, M.D.	S. Calif.
David K. Imagawa, M.D.	S. Calif.
Stephen G. Jolley, M.D.	WA/BC/AK
Kimberly S. Kirkwood, M.D.	N. Calif.
Daniel J. Ledbetter, M.D.	WA/BC/AK
James A. Murray, M.D.	S. Calif.
Ninh T. Nguyen, M.D.	S. Calif.
Eric D. Skarsgard, M.D.	WA/BC/AK
Laurence F. Yee, M.D.	N. Calif.

Nominating Committee Report:

Recorder: Fred A. Weaver
President-elect 2006: Cornelius Olcott, IV

The Council meeting was adjourned by Dr. Tom Russell.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Olcott, IV', written in a cursive style.

Cornelius Olcott, IV, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

PACIFIC COAST SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tuesday, February 18, 2003

The Monterey Plaza Hotel, Monterey California

- I. Approval of 2002 Minutes.
- II. Deaths:

Donald F. Brayton	C. James Carrico
R. Cameron Harrison	Albert G. Clark
Robert Jamplis	Joseph W. Nadal
C. Hunter Shelden	Victor Richards
	G. Edward Schnug
	David Tapper
- III. Introduction of New Members - Acknowledge New Members
- IV. President's Report: Tom Russell
- V. Recorder's Report: Eric Wilson
- VI. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Neil Olcott
- VII. Historian's Report: Geoff Nunes
- VIII. American Board of Surgery Report: Bruce Stabile
- IX. Board of Governors, ACS Report: Bill Traverso
- X. Advisory Council for General Surgery, ACS: Tom Berne
- XI. Local Arrangements Report: Bill Schecter/Doug Grey
- XII. Old Business
 - 1. Bylaws review: Neil Olcott
 - 2. CME credits with ACS: Neil Olcott
 - 3. Industry support program 2003: Tom Russell & Doug Grey
 - 4. Dues increase: Ted O'Connell
 - 5. Electronic submissions & power point presentations: Eric Wilson
 - 6. Caucus support: Neil Olcott
- XIII. New Business
 - 1. Audit Committee Report
 - 2. Approve honorarium for Recorder and Secretary/Treasurer
 - 3. Future Meetings: 2004, 2005
 - 4. Website Committee update: Bill Traverso
 - 5. New format for Arrangements Committee
- XIV. Election of New Members
- XV. Nominating Committee Report
- XVI. Induction of Officers
- XVII. Adjournment

Pacific Coast Surgical Association
Ballot
New Members for Consideration 2003

Proposed New Member	Region	Yes	No
1. JOHN T. ANDERSON, M.D.	No. Cal.	___	___
2. MICHAEL T. CAPS, M.D.	OR/HI	___	___
3. MARIANNE CINAT, M.D.	So. Cal.	___	___
4. HARKNESS S. FLOTEN, M.D.	OR/HI	___	___
5. RALPH S. GRECO, M.D.	No. Cal.	___	___
6. JON M. GREIF, M.D.	So. Cal.	___	___
7. PAUL D. HANSEN, M.D.	OR/HI	___	___
8. DOUGLAS B. HOOD, M.D.	So. Cal.	___	___
9. DAVID K. IMAGAWA, M.D.	So. Cal.	___	___
10. STEPHEN G. JOLLEY, M.D.	WA/AK/BC	___	___
11. KIMBERLY S. KIRKWOOD, M.D.	No. Cal.	___	___
12. DANIEL J. LEDBETTER, M.D.	WA/AK/BC	___	___
13. JAMES A. MURRAY, M.D.	So. Cal.	___	___
14. NINH T. NGUYEN, M.D.	So. Cal.	___	___
15. ERIC D. SKARSGARD, M.D.	WA/AK/BC	___	___
16. LAURENCE F. YEE, M.D.	No. Cal.	___	___

2003 Report to PCSA by the Representative to the American Board of Surgery

Bruce E. Stabile, M.D.

- I. Dr. Frank Lewis is the new Executive Director of ABS as of July 1, 2002
- II. Initiative to create an Early Specialization Program (ESP) in general surgery residency training
 - A. Response of ABS to requests from vascular surgery and thoracic surgery for shortened overall training period and earlier entry into subspecialty training
 1. Already practiced and supported by plastic surgery
 2. Strongly desired by medical students and residents
 - B. Goals of proposed ESP program
 1. Maintain the integrity and cohesiveness of general surgery and its subspecialties
 2. Maintain the face value of the ABS certificate in general surgery
 3. Shorten the period of basic general surgery training to facilitate earlier entry into subspecialty training or advanced general surgery training
 4. Redesign of the general surgery training paradigm with enhancement of the breadth and depth of surgical experience
 5. Promotion of the concept of advanced general surgery as a legitimate surgical subspecialty, perhaps with its own additional certificate of expertise
 - C. Initial general surgery residency training to be 4 rather than 5 years followed by an additional 1 to 3 years of subspecialty training (including advanced general surgery)
 1. Emphasis on education over service with elimination of noneducational activities
 2. Elimination of all non-essential content areas
 3. Increased exposure to all essential content areas
 4. R4 year to be chief year equivalent
 5. ABS Qualifying Exam eligibility after R4 year
 6. R5 year as advanced general surgery, or as initial year of 1 to 3 years of subspecialty training, depending on subspecialty
 7. ABS Certifying Exam eligibility after R5 year
 8. ESP not a contraction of general surgery training or ABS eligibility criteria
 - D. Special committees to develop specific proposals and guidelines
 1. Initial piloting in 20 to 30 selected centers offering general surgery, vascular surgery, and pediatric surgery training programs of demonstrated high quality
 2. Thoracic surgery, and later colon and rectal and plastic surgery boards to be approached regarding feasibility and process for coordinated training and certification

January 8, 2003

Thomas R. Russell, MD FACS
 President
 Pacific Coast Surgical Association

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
Section of General, Thoracic, and Vascular Surgery

Thomas R. Biehl, MD
 Emilia L. Dauway-Williams, MD
 Donald E. Low, MD
 Ravi Moonka, MD
 Daniel F. Neuzil, MD
 Edmond J. Raker, MD
 John A. Ryan, Jr., MD
 Richard C. Thirby, MD
 L. William Traverso, MD
 Debra G. Wechter, MD
 Virginia Mason Federal Way
 William A. Cray, Jr., MD
 Jeffrey A. Hunter, MD

RE: Annual Governors Report for year 2002
 To the Pacific Coast Surgical Association

Dear Dr. Russell, *Tom*

It has been my privilege to serve as the Pacific Coast Surgical Association's representative to the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors (B/G) for the past 6 years. This is my last report to the members and the Council of the PCSA. I have served on the Board of Governors *Committee on Surgical Practice in Hospitals* since 1998 and was appointed to the *Nominating Committee of the Board of Governors* and became the vice chair for the fiscal year 1999/2000 and the chair for 2000/2001.

I am happy to report that Pacific Coast Surgical Association is well represented in the leadership of the College. In addition to you the following PCSA members represent us in Chicago. Claude H. Organ, Jr. is the President elect. Two of the 18 members of the Board of Regents are from the Pacific Coast Surgical Association – A. Brent Eastman from La Jolla and Carlos Pellegrini from Seattle.

During the next few weeks the PCSA can participate to nominate fellows for upcoming vacancies on the Board of Regents. A request from the College will go to each of the Governors asking for nominations for the Board of Regents from the Governor's respective specialty societies or chapters. You may contact these Governors to recommend nominations. Please send your recommendations to my able replacement, Quan Duh in San Francisco (415) 750-2131.

As clearly indicated in the By-Laws of the College, "Governors are in every sense a direct represent of the Fellows. Every effort should be made to ensure freedom of communication between the Fellows and the Governors and from the Governors to the Regents of the College".

For the past 24 years the Governors of the American College of Surgeons have submitted annual reports that summarize the concerns of Fellows and they make recommendations regarding the

1100 9th Ave.
 PO Box 900 (C6-GSUR)
 Seattle, WA 98111
 Tel: 206-223-6600
 Fax: 206-625-7245

Research and Optimal Patient Care, R. Scott Jones, MD FACS, rjones@facs.org

The Trauma and Cancer Programs are housed within the last Division. Within the Trauma Program I am happy to report that the new Chair of the Regional Committees on Trauma is Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD, PCSA member from Seattle, WA.

In 2002 the ACS Board of Regents founded the American College of Surgeons Professional Association (ACSPA). Less restrictive tax implications for this not-for-profit corporation allows the ACSPA to fund a surgeon's political action committee (PAC). The ACSPA can now extend a broader range of benefits to surgeons and their patients including this expanded legislative action program. As Medicare reimbursement rates plummet and the medical liability crisis continues to grow surgeons can finally take an active role in legislative activities through this PAC. Through the new Chair of the ACSPA – Surgeons PAC, Andrew Warshaw, the PAC will be illustrating to policy makers the imperative for change and to offer valued support to those political candidates who recognize and address the concerns of surgeons.

Go to the legislative action center on the Home Page of the College's website at <http://www.facs.org> and click on "Federal Legislative Action" within the left navigation bar. This will take you to a user-friendly message board that allows an email conduit to your national congressional representative and the President of the United States. It is easy to express your perspective through this site.

As you lead the PCSA this year and as Quan Duh replaces me on the Board of Governors, I am especially privileged to have represented the PCSA at the American College of Surgeons as your Governor for the last six years.

Sincerely,



L. William Traverso, MD

LWT/jmb

cc: Council of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association
Carol Long, DMC Companies

Annual Report to the Pacific Coast Surgical Association from the Advisory Council for General Surgery, 2003

Thomas V. Berne, M.D.

The Advisory Council for General Surgery (ACGS) held its interim meeting in conjunction with the Spring Meeting of the College in San Diego on April 13 – 14, 2002, and its annual meeting in conjunction with the Clinical Congress in San Francisco, October 7, 2002. The chair of the Advisory Council during 2003 was Dr. Paul Friedmann.

Resident Work Hours

The Advisory Council was provided with recent information regarding resident work hours, including a letter with comments sent from the College to the ACGME in response to the ACGME's Final Report from the Work Group on Resident Duty Hours. In summary, the College's response to the ACGME was that the ACS "is supportive of ACGME's work but expresses reservations about how the small residencies and fellowships will be able to respond." Dr. Friedmann indicated that he has been working with Dr. Sacheva, Director the ACS' Division of Education, to develop a task force to look at the implications of the resident work environment and work hours. An ad hoc committee on the Environment of Residency Education has been formed, and it will most likely be addressing this issue.

Vascular Surgery

The Advisory Council reviewed a copy of a document developed by the joint vascular societies about guidelines for hospital privileges in vascular surgery. The Advisory Council for Vascular Surgery requested that the ACGS review this and provide comments. The document is scheduled for publication in the Journal of Vascular Surgery, and the Advisory Council for Vascular Surgery is ultimately seeking ACS endorsement. The document has also been circulated to the Advisory Councils for Cardiothoracic Surgery and Neurological Surgery. Dr. Friedmann indicated, that this document is designed to serve as a basis upon which hospital credentialing committees can determine the eligibility of surgeons for vascular surgical privileges.

The ACGS raised several concerns:

- 1) The acceptance of these guidelines would lead to creation of similar guidelines for other surgical privileges, resulting in a complicated and cumbersome system.
- 2) The production of specific guidelines creates liability issues for hospitals and surgeons.
- 3) The guidelines are too specific, and are designed for surgeons holding a certificate for vascular surgery. Many institutions have surgeons in other disciplines (general, neurological) who are credentialed and competent to perform vascular surgery procedures.

The ACGS believes that the College should avoid involvement in the endorsement of such guidelines. The College is an umbrella organization and this document does not