

ACS Oregon Council Meeting

June 13, 2019

Campbell's Resort, Chelan, WA

Officers and Councilors Attending (indicated*):

Officers

*Keith Thomas, MD, FACS - *President*
Dan Herzig, MD, FACS - *Past President*
*Laurel Soot, MD, FACS - *Governor (1)*
*Brett Sheppard, MD, FACS - *Governor (2)*
*Laszlo Kiraly, MD, FACS - *President-Elect*
Liana Tsikitis, MD, FACS, FASCRS - *Secretary-Treasurer*

Committee Chairs

Jason Jundt, MD, FACS, - *Program Chair*
*Jennifer Watters, MD, FACS - *Trauma Chair*
*Saunders Linn, MD - *Resident Representative*
Kris Dozier, MD, FACS - *Young Surgeon*
Richard Bryan Bell, MD, DDS, FACS - *Cancer Chair*
John Handy, MD, FACS - *OMA Liaison*

Geographic Representation

*Karen Kwong, MD, FACS - *Metro Councilor (1)*
John Handy, MD, FACS - *Metro Councilor (2)*
*Arvin Gee, MD, FACS - *Metro Councilor (3)*

1. Call to Order

Dr. Keith Thomas, council president called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. It was noted a quorum was present with attendees in person and on the web meeting.

2. Governor's Report

Dr. Laurel Soot said her ACS committee is working on evidence-based practice, smoking cessation and opioid prescription limits. She said there seems to be very little data on prescriptions for surgeries, but that the federal government and states are starting to pass laws, so ACS needs to get ahead of the issue.

Dr. Brett Sheppard noted he is in the ACS health quality committee working on optimization of outpatient surgical quality. He said he will be attending the NSQIP conference in July and he attended the ACS Clinical Congress. He noted the ACS networking session was useful.

Dr. Sheppard said Dr. Dan Herzig sent an email to Chris Solagian (spelling) to get a grant so our residents could get more involved in advocacy. He said he made a pitch for a grant of \$1,000, but it has not been finalized. The grant will help fund travel for a speaker at OHSU around the time of grand rounds. Residents would be invited. Dr. Kiraly said Saunders Lin has an interest in this topic as he is studying on this topic in New York City. It was suggested that after

Nichole Ingalls, MD, MPH, FACS - *MacKenzie Councilor (1)*
Travis Littman, MD, FACS - *MacKenzie Councilor (2)*
Frederick Foss, MD FACS - *North Coast Councilor*
Megan Frost, MD - *Southern Councilor (1)*
*Monte Stewart, MD, FACS - *Southern Councilor (2)*
Raphael El Youssef, MD FACS - *Umpqua Councilor*
Fred Bahnson, MD FACS - *Willamette Councilor (1)*
*Sandeep Kumar, MD - *Willamette Councilor (2)*
Jason Jundt, MD, FACS - *Central Oregon*
Phil Letourneau, MD, FACS - *Columbia Gorge*
Vacant - *East Oregon*

Others attending, guests:

Harvey Gail, MBA, Oregon ACS Administrator
Martin Schreiber, MD, FACS, Specialty Society
Governor, North Pacific Surgical Association
Erin Gilbert, MD, FACS, Portland Surgical Society
President

he finishes his residency, he could take a larger role. Dr Schreiber said he was a staffer in an earlier job which gives him a different perspective which could be beneficial.

3. Secretary Treasurer's Report

Harvey Gail said Dr. Tsikitis wasn't able to attend the meeting, so he presented the financial report. He read the account balances as of June 11, 2019:

Wells Fargo Checking:	\$23,552.22
Wells Fargo Savings:	<u>\$1,972.45</u>
Total:	\$25,524.67

Gail also reviewed the profit and loss report by class, which shows the activity categorized by the major activity areas including administrative, annual meeting, Day at the Capitol and Portland Surgical Society. He noted dues ACS has collected \$18,725 in dues and \$11,375 in Portland Surgical Society dues. Gail said that so far PSS has a positive cash flow of \$5,086.22 as of June. He noted PSS has been taking a more strategic approach to meeting planning which has helped balance out income and expenditures and he predicted that PSS would break even by the end of the fiscal year (Sept 30).

Dr. Kiraly said he made some calls and emails to members. Gail said about the same time, the staff office mailed reminders and invoices for dues and it was included in the ACS e-newsletter. Gail said the efforts have been successful since we had several people pay dues in the last few weeks. Dr. Kiraly said that the Oregon chapter is about the same percent of ACS Fellows who are also chapter members (about 20% as other state chapters. He noted the biggest potential is newly admitted ACS Fellows. Dr. Levine concurred that we should look at initiates in the last few years first for membership because long-time fellows who have never been chapter members are unlikely to join the chapter.

4. Committee Reports

A. Programs

Gail said that the schedule for the meeting in Sunriver in 2020 is a full day both Friday and Saturday. Dr Kiraly agreed that was preferable to the schedule that had a half day on Sunday. Gail suggested we start thinking about a theme and invited speakers. Dr. Kiraly said Washington ACS members wanted to address medical risk and legal issues. He said the Portland Surgical Society had a malpractice defense attorney speak recently. He suggested this probably wouldn't be the main theme, but it would make a good symposium. Dr. Kiraly suggested a committee meeting should be set for the summer to start bouncing some ideas around. Dr. Thomas suggested we could have a joint meeting with PSS in the near future, perhaps as part of a strategic planning meeting and social gathering.

B. Committee on Trauma

Dr. Jennifer Watters said they enlisted the Committee on Trauma with a somewhat daunting task of setting up *Stop the Bleed* efforts throughout the state. She said ATLS courses are still going strong with most efforts coming from OHSU and Legacy Health, but Eugene is also starting to get involved. She said there is some trauma legislation, but she didn't have details. She said Legacy Emmanuel is looking for a full-time trauma medical director, which has statewide implications. She is looking to help them recruit someone.

C. Committee on Cancer

No report.

D. Residents

Dr. Saunders Lin said he's on a committee to consolidate the role of the position of Resident Director. He said tasks include attending events like advocacy day, the summer meeting, and advocacy day at OHSU. He's also tasked with recruiting residents. He said feedback from residents he has talked to is it isn't clear how they join the chapter, even though they are free as national members. Dr. Thomas referred again to potential funding. Dr. Linn asked what the council would want the residents to do. Gail said sometimes residents are involved in the resident competitions at the annual meeting. He said attending clinical congress can be difficult for residents logistically and financially, but they do have a skills competition and *Resident Jeopardy* which is worthwhile.

E. Young Surgeons

Dr. Kris Dozier was not in attendance.

F. Committee on Applicants

Dr. Glenn Levine said the Chapter interviewed 13 or 14 FACS candidates and the College accepted all of them. They will be notifying them in June. He sent them an email describing the process and timeline for ACS fellowship. Dr. Soot said that over the years she's been involved, Oregon has only had two people that were not admitted. Dr. Levine said Candace Church was in charge at the ACS office, but she's no longer there. He said the interviews went well, and that having a little smaller group made the process easier. He noted candidates were paired with people in similar practices. Dr. Levine said there were four people interviewed at a different outside of the Salem interviews. He said the chapter should get \$20 for each interview. Gail noted the funds have not been received yet, but they would go against the costs for the meeting in March.

G. Nominations

Dr. Kiraly said the council had discussed speaking to Dr. Arvin Gee about being in line for President-elect, but he needed more time to consider it. Dr. Thomas said there was consideration of maintaining a rotation of geographic representation for the president. Dr. Levine said if we could find a community working surgeon, there would be value in that. Dr. Schreiber said there are doing a lot of surgery in southern Oregon towns. Dr. Levine felt a larger community would represent a busier population of surgeons. Dr. Schreiber said there is a crisis in rural areas, and he pointed out that the ACS rural surgery committee is made up of people from larger towns and doesn't have enough representation from rural areas.

Dr. Kiraly said its preferable to look to people who have served on the council for a few years before asking them to be in the president rotation. Dr. Monty Stewart was suggested as a possibility; he's in Ashland. Dr. Levine said he would consider it. To finalize the ballot, Dr. Thomas said a committee call should be scheduled and he pointed out that the council usually announces the ballot at the annual meeting, but since it's not finalized, we will handle that later by email in the next month or so. Dr. Levine suggested the council positions should be in place by Clinical Congress in October. Dr. Levine said he approached Dr. Kristen Massimino, but she didn't want to do it.

H. Government Affairs

Gail said the bill that would lift the \$500,000 cap on noneconomic damages died. Dr. Kiraly clarified that the bill was defeated on the Senate floor, which is unusual because they don't have a floor vote unless they think it's going to pass, and this one was voted down. He also said the smoke evacuator bill died.

Dr. Thomas said Congressman Greg Walden got behind a medical billing legislation of his own and that there are a couple other bills on this topic. He said the final management point will fall into the responsibility of the hospital. One has private practice physicians having the option for balanced billing. It was noted all this is probably bad for private practice. Thomas said there might be a move to change the rules on collusion for private practice physician.

I. Portland Surgical Society

Dr. Thomas said the Council needs more participation from PSS. He said Dr. Tsikitis has done a great job calling attention to the financial aspects of PSS and that the council has been asking for calling for more oversight. He said PSS should have a seat on the council and that there should be a blended meeting with ACS and PSS. Also, all PSS officers should be encouraged to attend the annual meeting.

Dr. Gilbert felt the Sentinel Hotel has been easy to work with, but their prices have gone up. Dr. Gilbert noted some of the members have expressed concern over moving PSS from the Sentinel (Governor) Hotel. She thought we could try a joint meeting once next year. Dr. Schreiber said they raised the price, so we might have to change the format. Kiraly felt the food wasn't as good as it could be. Dr. Gilbert said Dr. Kristen Massimino is the new president.

Dr. Kiraly said the OHSU McKenzie Society, an alumni group of OHSU, is mostly Portland metro surgeons, so ACS might be able to combine a meeting with PSS. He felt that group may be a better fit for a joint meeting than ACS. He noted McKenzie society dues are like PSS, but are more expensive. Dr. Gilbert felt at least one meeting a year should be held at the Sentinel Hotel with a focus on long-term members. She didn't think the venue should be changed for all the meetings. She also said PSS charged \$50 for other guests at the last meeting and Gail confirmed that \$1,000 was collected.

Dr. Thomas noted PSS has a chair on the ACS Council meeting and they should be encouraged to attend. Dr. Gilbert agreed, but she said she only recently was made aware of the meeting. Dr. Kiraly said the PSS scientific meeting could be held at the same time as the ACS meeting and that there could be a joint meeting with the McKenzie Society.

Dr. Gilbert said about 20 percent of the people who come to PSS meetings aren't from OHSU. She didn't think we should disband it entirely, as PSS is in its 73rd year. She suggested holding one joint meeting with the McKenzie Society, two PSS evening speaker events and one scientific meeting, perhaps the day before the ACS Annual meeting in Sunriver. Dr. Gilbert said PSS is having another meeting sometime before the end of the summer. Dr. Kiraly said we have made progress, and Gilbert said some more change is necessary.

J. Specialty Society Governor

Dr. Schreiber noted the ACS Board of Governors, is looking at the way the group is organized. He said the opinion is the voice of the Fellows doesn't seem to be heard. He said they did a survey, and a lot of the comments come down to people's concern about compensation, linking quality to payment, surprise billing, which ACS is deeply involved and that this is an area that could divide surgeons. This only happens in out of network people. Dr. Levine said there are some bad apples out there, and he feared it could be the end of private practice. There are areas that don't participate in networks. Dr. Schreiber said the issue is in the public eye and the ACS is deeply involved in trying to come up with a

balanced billing approach. Dr. Soot said this could be divisive; pitting insurance companies against hospitals. Dr. Schreiber said ACS is also addressing gun violence as a disease process and the opioid crisis. He said ACS Fellows should go directly to their governor if they have an issue to bring up. Dr. Soot noted the ACS website has a link to the Board of Governors. The group discussed the value of political action and recent experiences talking to elected officials as well as the SSR and coding. Gail said he will post a link on the website so our members can find their governors. Dr. Kumar said this kind of representation is a good way to enhance our value to members.

5. Oregon Medical Association

Dr. Handy was not in attendance, but he provided the following report:

Two weekends ago the OMA Board of Trustees had a meeting. Of note was the Oregon Senate was not able to pass a bill that would have repealed the \$500K cap on noneconomic damages. This repeal has been recurrently strongly proponed by trial lawyer lobby, but so far it hasn't moved. The OMA considers this a great victory but remains vigilant.

6. Administrator's Report

Gail said the new website is up. It uses a platform called *Wild Apricot*. Gail said the 990 taxes are done and Dr. Thomas needs to sign them. He presented them for review.

Gail noted the most recent dues results:

- Current Paid Members, Oregon ACS: 162
- Current Paid members, PSS: 58
- Lapsed ACS members (from last year): 21

Dr. Kiraly noted more members will create a stronger organization, so this needs to be a goal of the Chapter. He said the national ACS is resistant to collecting chapter dues, in part due to complexities raised by having varying rates across the states. He said ACS could standardize the dues price and that Oregon is about average. Dr. Levine said ACS dues are \$675. He suggested ACS should look at new members over the last five years. He volunteered to call rural initiates. Dr. Kiraly said the list should be divided up, coded as members and prospects and assigned to the councilors based on geographic representation.

7. Old Business

A. Bylaws

Gail asked if the bylaws say anything about the rotation of presidents. Kiraly said the bylaws need to be reviewed. He said the first thing is for us to review them. Thomas said the bylaws could be loaded onto the website. Gail said there is probably a procedure for approval of bylaws changes, and he described the typical process.

Dr. Thomas asked if we need to continue the specific order of rotation for OHSU, Metro, Rural. Gee said there only downside would be if there was a string of representation. Dr. Schreiber suggested we consider a rotation along the lines of big city, middle city, little city. He felt this could work if the little city was focused on a more rural area. Monte Stewart was suggested as a potential for president. Dr. Levine said he would do it after Monte. He noted Jennifer Watters will go through two six year terms as Trauma Committee chair, so she would not be eligible for a while. Dr. Kumar said this is a similar rotation as how their hospital handles it.

B. Strategic Planning

Gail passed out the notes from the strategic planning session in March. He suggested the council refine the initiatives at the next council meeting. He pointed out that the notes outline potential initiatives, but they need to be refined.

8. New Business

A. Locums

Dr. Thomas said the issue of Locums this could be a topic for the Sunriver meeting next year. He described how some of the coverage is being handled, but there are a lot of questions and there is a need to develop a model for locums. He noted it's expensive if hospital hire locums. Dr. Levine said it might be possible to have a "Match.com" style website that addresses the issue. Dr. Kiraly said the locums headhunter fees are high. Dr. Schreiber said there could be legislation that would make the process easier, perhaps using an Oregon credentialing process. He said a lot of times this kind of thing falls on big universities. Dr. Kiraly said the credentialing is very difficult in some hospitals. It was also noted there are a lot of legal and malpractice issues associated it.

B. Support for Resident Councilor

The group discussed how the council can support the resident council director's attendance at the annual meeting.

PASSED

Motion to cover the registration fee for the Resident Councilor MM Dr. Kiraly; MS Dr. Thomas. Motion carried.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be set in September, date to be determined.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Thomas called the meeting to adjournment at 5:20 pm.

Minutes taken by Harvey Gail, MBA, Oregon ACS Administrator