

Executive Meeting
Joint Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological
Surgeons-Congress of Neurological Surgeons

September 26, 2000

Conference Room 1
River Center Marriott
San Antonio, TX

Attendance

John P. Laurent, M.D., Chairman, Rick Abbott, M.D., Secretary - Treasurer, Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D., Philip H. Cogen, M.D., Douglas L. Brockmeyer, M.D., Frederick A. Boop, III, M.D. (non-voting), Thomas G. Luerksen, M.D. (non-voting), Barbara Morrison (Representative for Kathleen Craig, AANS, non-voting)

Call to Order

Dr. John P. Laurent, Chairman of the Joint Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Financial Report

Present projections show that this year's winter meeting will run at a +\$19,000 loss. Of concern to the Executive Board is the increase in administrative costs. Discussions are currently underway with the AANS Headquarters to better understand this situation and to determine whether some savings could be generated in this area. Mention was also made of the possibility to explore other avenues such as outside agencies to run our annual winter meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Reports:

Publications -- Sarah J. Gaskill, M.D.

Dr. Gaskill reports that the Chiari malformation and tethered spinal cord booklets are complete. She has experienced some difficulty in determining how to electronically post these publications on Neurosurgery-On-Call. Dr. Laurent suggested that she work with Doug Brockmeyer to accomplish this. The Board also voiced the desire that these publications be made available to the public at large via the Internet and that the authors name not be affixed to the document. Rather the Section would assume responsibility for the publications content.

American Academy of Pediatrics --Joseph H. Piatt, M.D.

Dr. Walker reports that the relationship the American Academy of Pediatrics and organized Pediatric Neurosurgery continues to blossom. He related that recently the executive for AAP released a statement strongly supporting children being treated by Pediatric Surgical Subspecialists.

New Business:

Bulletin of American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Dr. Luerssen attended a meeting called by the editors of the Bulletin on September 25, 2000 at the CNS's annual meeting in San Antonio. There has been a change in personnel responsible for the publication of the Bulletin. There is a current attempt to give the Bulletin a new focus. A desire was expressed by the editor to make the Bulletin more responsive to the readership. To this end they plan to poll the readership as to what type of content they would value appearing in the Bulletin. An additional concern expressed was the need for the Bulletin to be revenue neutral. To that end they plan to solicit advertising.

Dr. Luerssen went on to observe that the Section is increasingly being asked to provide content for publication in literature (electronic and paper) directed toward both the neurosurgical, general medical and lay public. As the immediate past Secretary/Treasurer he felt that the requests were rapidly becoming overwhelming. While most of the requests were to be viewed as serious and of potential importance in educating the public at large about issues important to our specialty, the volume was overwhelming for the small number of individuals currently holding positions responsible for fulfilling these needs. He proposed that the Publication Committee be enlarged by including a number of our membership interested in drafting materials when requested and that the Secretary/Treasurer be an integral member of this committee in as much as he/she typically is the recipient of the requests.

Separation of the Secretary/Treasurer position into two separate offices

A recommendation has been made to the Board by Dr. Hector James to consider separating the Secretary/Treasurer position into two separate posts. Given the anticipated increase in duties of the secretary vis-à-vis publications and the increased importance of a thorough appreciation of the nuances of our fiscal status given the memberships expressed desire to decrease registration fees for our meetings while maintaining our financial health the Board felt this should be seriously considered. This issue will be presented to the membership for consideration in accordance to our By-Laws.

Old Business

Think First

Dr David Adelson reported on the stasis of think first to the organization highlighting that through increased fund raising their organization had decreased administrative and fund raising to less than 20% of total collections. His projections for the up coming year were even brighter. His main purpose in attending our meeting was to highlight the fact that only 19 states currently have central offices to coordinate statewide activities and that only 24 states have programs in place. It was agreed by the Board that he should provide us with a summary statement as to the improved fiscal position of the organization as well as a stasis report on the program's development and how any interested Section member could establish a program in his community. This would then be released to our membership via Shortcuts.

Candidate Representatives from Pediatric Section for Executive Council, AANS

At our April Executive meeting Dr. Laurent reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Stewart Dunsker, President of the AANS, requesting that the Section designate three candidates from whom a representative at large would be selected to sit on the Executive Council of the AANS in addition to Dr. Laurent, our Chairman. Drs Hal Rekate, Jack Walker and Michael Scott were forwarded to Dr Dunsker as our candidates. From this list he selected Dr Marion Walker to be our representative. Dr. Laurent subsequently received a communication from Dr. Dunsker informing him that he no longer needed to participate in the Executive Council's meetings.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that if the Pediatric Section was to have only a single representative that that representative should be its Chairman.

No other business was brought forth. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Abbott M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer