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Dear Colleagues:

The One Hundred Thirty-third Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego, California on Wednesday, April 18th and Thursday, April 19th, 2012 as part of the Combined Otolaryngological Spring Meetings (COSM). The meeting planning team of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Secretaries Liaison Committee has worked diligently to select this extraordinary venue for our meeting and associated events. The ALA program, planned by Michael Benninger, M.D., our President, and his committee (Blake Simpson, MD, Program Chairperson; Paul Flint, MD; Randal Paniello, MD, Gaelyn Garrett, MD) will feature a variety of scientific papers from our national and international colleagues, an invited presentation, panel discussions, and the Daniel C. Baker, MD Lecture.

Following the first Business Meeting on Wednesday morning, April 18th at 7:30 AM, our first scientific session will begin at 8:00 AM. On Thursday afternoon, April 19th at 12:30 PM, we will have our second Business Meeting that will be followed by the second Scientific Session at 1:00 PM. We'd like to urge all fellows to participate in both business meetings. The President's Reception will honor Dr. Benninger's term on Wednesday evening, April 18th with the theme, *The Fabulous 50's: Rock 'N Roll*. This function begins at 7:00 PM and is sure to be a memorable occasion for everyone. Music will be provided by local San Diego musicians who will remind us of an era when rock and roll was "king". Join us for a wonderful evening of music and special recognition to some of our colleagues with the awarding of the deRoaldes and Newcomb Awards. Tickets (\$75 each for members/spouses and \$85 each for non-members) for the reception may be purchased by contacting our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham (maxine.cunningham@vanderbilt.edu or 615-812-6170). In order to ensure adequate preparation for all attendees, we request that you purchase your tickets in advance before March 31, 2011. A limited number of tickets may be available on-site. You may purchase with a

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check, credit card (AMEX, MasterCard, and VISA) or cash. Tickets must be presented at the door **to attend the President's Reception.**

By now, you should have received your COSM registration package from the American College of Surgeons meeting planners. If not, information may be obtained at the COSM website (www.cosm.md). The early registration deadline is March 9, 2012. If your registration has not been received by April 11, 2012, you will be required to register on-site. Excellent hotel room rates have been negotiated by the ACS and I encourage everyone to take advantage by reserving hotel space as quickly as possible since space is limited. The deadline for housing application is March 26, 2012. This year, COSM Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC) approved a flat registration fee for all attendees from Japan to highlight their ongoing participation in the meeting. Other international attendees have been highlighted in the past.

Since its inception, the ALA has worked diligently to follow its mission in promoting and disseminating innovation and advances in Laryngology. As in previous years, the meeting program will provide a forum for original research in the form of podium oral presentations, poster presentations and insightful lectures and panel discussions. I encourage all attendees to visit the poster area since these presentations are given the same emphasis as the podium presentations. We are working with the SLC and ACS to streamline poster submission and presentation and in the future, will hopefully incorporate online poster sessions.

Following the Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 18th, Dr. Benninger will present his Presidential Address, "*The Voice Literature: Past, Present and Future*" at 8:00 AM. This year, the ALA and the American Head and Neck Society will jointly sponsor a panel discussion, "Treatment of Early Laryngeal Cancer. Panelists include Drs. Dennis Kraus, Carol Bradford, and Mark Courey with Dr. Benninger serving as the moderator.

Dr. Benninger will present the 2012 Guest of Honor Award to Dr. Dennis Kraus. Dr. George Zalzar will be presented the Gabriel Tucker Award, and Dr. Minoru Hirano will receive the American Laryngological Association Award. Dr. Roger Crumley, a Past President, will be honored as the Daniel C. Baker Jr. Lecturer on Wednesday, April 18th. For his topic, he has selected to speak on "*Neurolaryngology: Concepts for Improved Laryngeal Function.*"

The Council approved the nominations of six candidates for Active Fellowship and three candidates for Corresponding Fellowship for this year's induction. Several of our Fellows who are actively retired from patient care practice have been nominated for elevation to Emeritus Fellowship. You are receiving your Ballot book with this newsletter. As mandated by our By-Laws, please mark your ballot and follow instructions on the last page of the book. Remember that your ballot **must be signed** to validate your votes. A final vote will occur at the first Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 18th. The Post-Graduate Member category also continues to grow. As of this newsletter, we have four (4) candidates who will be introduced during our first business meeting.

The website, www.alahns.org, continues to be a wonderful informative tool. If you have been unable to access our website, please contact our administrator, Maxine Cunningham, to confirm your email address. Beginning in April, each Fellow with a confirmed email address will receive a username and temporary password if one has not previously been provided. You will be required to update your profile which will allow you to access the "Member's" link. If you have not responded to the request for your email address, please do so at your earliest convenience.

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Last year, the Council recommended two changes in the By-laws, Article IV –Section 2: *Qualifications for Membership – Active Fellows*. The proposed amendment will modify the criteria for Active Fellowship so qualifications for this category's candidates will continue to be of excellent caliber as evidenced by prior participation at meetings. The Council also recommended an increase in the Active Fellowship membership category from 150 to 200. Attached is the proposed change that all eligible voters are receiving with this newsletter. As per by-laws requirements, the proposed change must be voted on by the membership in attendance at the annual meeting.

The Council continues to monitor closely our operating expenses. The majority of our revenue continues to be derived from payment of member dues. Although collections are improving, there is still an outstanding amount that remains delinquent. Invoices for 2012 were sent during the last quarter of 2011. We ask that if you have not remitted your dues, please do so as soon as possible. If you are delinquent with your dues and you attend this year's Annual Meeting, we will be able to process payment as a convenience to you. We also ask that you review the By-laws' section pertaining to those who are delinquent. Questions may be directed to our administrative office.

As Secretary of this Association for the past four years, it has been my sincere pleasure to provide you with updates on the growth of our organization. We continue to seek opportunities for collaboration with our sister societies as is evident by the joint panel Dr. Benninger and the program committee worked to bring to the meeting. We also continue to improve our financial standing and research opportunities. Dr. Ken Altman was instrumental in securing a grant from the Nestle Corporation that will provide additional research funding in Dysphagia. Finally, as the oldest national specialty society, we are unwavering in our task to insure the ALA continues its tradition of excellence and camaraderie that has flourished for more than one hundred and thirty-four years.

I also extend my appreciation to Maxine Cunningham, who as the Administrator of our Association, has been a resilient partner to me during my term as secretary and is invaluable to our day-to-day operations.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the One Hundred Thirty-third Annual Meeting of the ALA in San Diego. I assure you it will be truly outstanding.

Sincerely yours,



C. Gaelyn Garrett, M.D.
Secretary, ALA

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