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American Laryngological Association

2013 Winter Newsletter

Office of the Secretary
193-39 Keno Avenue
Holliswood, NY 11423-1214
Phone: 212-744-4368
Fax: 212-434-6620
Email: Gadyh@aol.com

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Clarence T. Sasaki, MD
New Haven, Connecticut

Vice President/ President Elect

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Nashville, Tennessee

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Holliswood, New York

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February 15, 2013

Dear ALA Fellows and Members,

On behalf of President Clarence Sasaki and the ALA Council, I am pleased to provide you with an update on our activities and on our preparations for the upcoming annual meeting.

The Winter Meeting of the ALA Council was held in conjunction with the Combined Sectional Meeting of the Triological Society on January 25, 2013. I would like to share with you a few agenda items. A report of the Membership Committee of the ALA was reviewed. The committee, chaired by Mark Weissler, and with members Drs. Clark Rosen, Al Merati, and Gady Har-El (ex-officio), carefully reviewed the applications for different categories of membership and fellowship. The committee recommended two physicians for Active Fellowship, five physicians for change of status to Emeritus Fellowship, one application for a Corresponding Fellow, three applications for Associate Fellowship, and 16 applications for Post-Graduate Membership. The Council reviewed the Membership Committee's recommendations and approved them. Enclosed with this newsletter you are receiving the ballot book. As mandated by our bylaws, please mark your ballot and follow the instructions on the last page of the book. A final formal vote will occur at our first business meeting on Wednesday April 10, 2013. Please note that your ballot **must be signed** to validate your votes.

Last year, the Council, with input from past and present leaders of the ALA, decided to examine the process of nominating and electing members to the Council. At the 2012 Annual Meeting, President Michael Benninger appointed an ad-hoc committee on the election process. The committee, chaired by Dennis Kraus, MD with members Drs. William Armstrong, Mark Weissler and David Eisele, had multiple discussions as well as consultations with past presidents. Their recommendations were discussed extensively at the 2013 Winter

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Council Meeting. The recommendations include a significant change in the structure of the Nominating Committee. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the ad-hoc committee members for their hard work, Dr. Andy Blitzer for initiating the discussion, and Dr. Eugene Myers for his advice and for his help with reviewing the process.

Also attached to this newsletter, you are receiving 2 proposed amendments to the By-Laws. These amendments were discussed and approved by the Council and authored by the Chair of the By-Laws Committee. The first proposed change reflects the changes in the nominating process. These changes, if approved, will lead to a Nominating Committee consisting of three Past-Presidents and two Members-at-Large. The second proposed amendment modification pertains to the criteria for post-graduate member candidates by clarifying the requirement of board certification for foreign-graduates who have board certification from a recognized foreign Otolaryngology Board.

The 134th Annual Meeting of the ALA is promising to be a very special one. For the first time ever, we will have combined sessions with the American Broncho-Esophagological Association and the European Laryngological Society. The meeting will take place as part of COSM at the JW Marriot Grande Lakes, in Orlando, Florida. Our meeting dates are Wednesday April 10, 2013 and Thursday April 11, 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Program Committee, which I chaired, Drs. Lucian Sulica, Ellen Friedman, Dennis Kraus, and Al Merati. I would also like to express my appreciation to our colleagues in the American Broncho-Esophagological Association, especially Drs. Peter Koltai and Edward Damrose, as well as our European colleagues, especially Drs. Maria De La Mota and Frederik Dijkers, for their cooperation. I am confident that the final product of these combined efforts will be exciting and educating. Let me share with you a few highlights of the upcoming meeting:

Our first session will begin with the business meeting on Wednesday morning, April 10, at 7:30 AM. This will include the induction ceremony of new fellows and members. At 8:00 AM, our President, Dr. Clarence Sasaki, will open the scientific meeting with his Presidential Citations to Drs. Andrew Blitzer, Daniel Brasnu, Gady Har-El, Steffen Maune, William Richtsmeier, Kiminori Sato, and Marshall Strome. He will then introduce the 2013 ALA Guest of Honor, Marvin P. Fried, MD, who will present "The American Laryngological Association: Its Legacy in American Medicine". Our Wednesday morning scientific program will include four scientific sessions on Larynx, Traumas/Stenosis, Neurolaryngology, and Swallowing. In addition, the American Laryngological Association Award will be presented to Dr. Harvey Tucker and the Gabriel Tucker Award will be presented to Dr. Andrew Inglis. The morning program will conclude with the panel discussion on "Neurogenic Cough: Concepts and Cases" moderated by Dr. Lucian Sulica.

The annual ALA reception, honoring President Sasaki, will be held on Wednesday evening, April 10 at 7:00 PM. This year's theme, "A Musical Night from Havana", will honor the

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music that has evolved from the 19th century offerings into today's highly recognized rhythms of the mambo, rumba and cha-cha. Tickets may be obtained by contacting our administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at 615-812-6170 or maxine.cunningham@vanderbilt.edu.

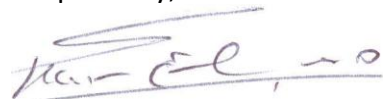
Our second day meeting, Thursday April 11, will begin with the business meeting at 12:30 PM. The first scientific session will be devoted to oncology and will feature papers from the European Laryngological Society. At 1:35 PM, President Sasaki will introduce the 2013 Daniel C Baker Jr. Lecturer, Dr. Jonas T. Johnson. Dr. Johnson will present "Management of Laryngeal Cancer: Contemporary Challenges in a Time of Rapid Change". Three additional scientific sessions will be devoted to the Larynx; General; and Oncology. The Thursday sessions will conclude with the panel on "Advanced Laryngeal Cancer" which I will moderate. Panelists will represent the ALA, ABA, and ELS. Our new President, Dr. C. Gaelyn Garrett, will be introduced at 5:00 PM.

At the Winter Council Meeting, our Treasurer, Dr. Kenneth Altman, reported on our financial health. I am pleased to report that we continue to do well financially both as an individual organization and as part of COSM which is run efficiently by the American College of Surgeons.

Please continue to visit our website, www.ALAHNS.Org, which is managed and updated by our Editor, Dr. Mark Courey. It is a wonderful resource and an informative tool where you can get all the updates on educational, clinical, and administrative activities of the ALA. On behalf of the Council and entire membership, I would like to express our appreciation to Maxine Cunningham who, as the Administrator of the ALA, has provided us with reliable and dependable organizational support.

I thank the Council and the ALA membership for giving me the honor of serving as your Secretary.

Respectfully,



Gady Har-El, MD, FACS
Secretary

GH/mc

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