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Dear Colleagues,

Plans for the 117th Annual Meeting of the WSA at the Westin La Cantera Resort in San Antonio, Texas are well underway. Enclosed with this newsletter are registration forms, general meeting information and a hotel brochure.

Please help our membership remain vibrant and healthy, and plan on attending the annual meeting. We also ask you to encourage and support new members. Membership applications are available on line. While the deadline for new member applications was June 1, quality applications clearly take precedence over deadlines!

The applicant is responsible for filling out that application form, but we still need a letter of sponsorship and 2 letters of endorsement from members of the WSA. They can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to my office. The Membership Committee will be meeting this summer by conference call to review completed applications. **Please do everything possible to complete or submit new member applications as soon as possible.** New members are the lifeblood of the WSA.

In an effort to boost our publication rate in the Archives of Surgery, we have instituted a number of changes to the manuscript submission and review process, which has included moving the abstract submission deadline up to June 1. We extended it for a few days this year to allow for the overlap with other society deadlines. This year we also included the new category of **Case Presentations** on a trial basis. We look forward to your comments on these. The new deadline for submission of a manuscript will be September 21, well in advance of the meeting. You should hear by August 1 regarding the acceptance or rejection of your abstract to the annual scientific meeting.

The Advisory Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to review the very strong interest that the membership demonstrated for the three positions available to our specialty society: ACS Advisory Council, ACS Governor, and American Board of Surgery. Thank you for your interest and willingness to participate and serve.

The enclosed registration forms and brochures highlight the wonderful location and facilities for our upcoming annual meeting. As always we encourage spouses, and will have a wonderful social program to balance the strong science.

You may also note the use of our new logo on this letterhead and the web site, as we are trying to incorporate its wider use.

President Schwesinger and Local Arrangements Chairman Art and Iris McFee look forward to welcoming you and your family to San Antonio! Please call my office or e-mail us directly or via the website if you have any questions or needs.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Jurkovich, MD
Secretary, WSA
GJJ/DCT