

To: ASC Board
From: Chris Eskridge
Date: October 15, 2018
Re: Executive Director's Report

This has again been a very busy six months since we last met. We continue to be financially sound, and remain a vibrant, active professional society. The Atlanta meetings appear as if they are going to attract some 4,000 attendees. In sum, over the last six months, things have moved along, and we have engaged in the normal flow of business, as normal as anything is with this very dynamic and active organization of ours. A few detailed thoughts:

1. *Membership Figures*

As of today, we have 4,231 members. This number warrants a little explanation. We have 3,682 individuals with 2018 memberships, and 549 individuals to date who are not members in 2018, but have joined for 2019. We ended last year with 3,698 members, so our membership figures for 2018 are going to be virtually the same as last year.

2. *Divisions*

As usual, I try to stay in touch with the divisions, especially at this time of the year as they make their annual meeting plans. As noted in the financial report, all of the divisions are doing well, with solid membership and positive account balances.

3. *Committees*

Our 30 or so committees and liaison representatives have all been active and have fulfilled their assignments in a timely fashion. I have stayed in touch with the committee chairs and liaison reps when needed.

4. *Policy and Procedures Manual*

We made all of the updates to the Policy and Procedures manual subsequent to the Spring Board Meeting, and posted it on the web.

5. *Columbus Office Activities*

The Columbus staff continues to perform above and beyond, handling the elections, getting the annual meeting program together and handling the myriad of meeting logistics, dealing with the newsletter, keeping the membership list and databases up to date, interacting with divisions and committee members, managing the webpage, and managing our funds in an orderly fashion. Our membership and meeting registration forms are particularly complicated (our members can join any of 14 divisions and can select from 10 different journals and choose to receive each of those journals in different ways), and that has required a significant effort on their part. They work together to help ASC run smoothly and to particularly make our growing annual meeting a seamless event. As I have reported previously, the staff continues to evaluate old vs new ways of handling their tasks, with a constant eye toward cost effectiveness. In sum, we have an extremely professional, dedicated, and committed staff who are

focused on the health and well-being of ASC, who regularly go the extra mile, and who are always looking for ways to be more effective. We are very fortunate.

6. *Annual Meeting Preparations*

- A. Atlanta (2018) - We did our site visit last Spring in conjunction with the Mid-year Board Meeting and lined things up. We have worked with the hotel staff since of course. The hotel is full, things are organized, the program book is printed, the Fire Marshal has approved things, bags and badges have been delivered, money has been collected, room sets and AV have been arranged, food has been ordered....we are ready to go!

- B. San Francisco (2019) – Susan Case and I traveled to San Francisco last Spring and got a good look at the Marriott. We have been to the San Francisco Marriott several times before, so we are aware of the general layout and just needed to get a handle on the new construction, some room reconfigurations, and fine-tune our meeting space needs

7. *Mentoring Award Timetable Proposal*

The Mentoring Award Committee has asked for a modified submission timeline. They want a single date for all material, and that date should be in early June. This is the current narrative:

Letters of nomination (including statements in support of the nomination) should be submitted to the Mentor Award Committee Chair in electronic form and must be received by April 1, 2018. The nominee's portfolio and all other supporting materials should also be submitted to the Mentor Award Committee Chair in electronic form and must be received by June 30, 2018.

Here is the proposed narrative:

Letters of nomination (including statements in support of the nomination), the nominee's portfolio, and all other supporting materials should be submitted to the Mentor Award Committee Chair in electronic form by June 1.

If approved, this would take effect for the 2020 Award nominations.

8. *Child Care Dynamics*

The issue of child care has been our agenda for the last three years now. We first provided in-house child care in New Orleans (2016) and then in Philadelphia (2017), but are not doing so this year. This year, we have listed four child care service providers on the Atlanta Annual Meeting webpage, as we have done for many years.

As for the in-house child care matter, we decided to try it out as an experiment in 2016. The result - very few individuals utilized this service, in either New Orleans or Philadelphia (at some significant cost to ASC). I no longer have the exact data, but there were just 5 maybe 6 individuals who used the in-house child care service in each of the cities. The bigger issue that now pragmatically prohibits us from providing in-

house child care is liability. I contacted an attorney who indicated that we would need to both aggressively vet the child care service company and well as each of their individual employees who would be working for us (ie., calling individual references for each of the individuals who would work our meeting). And then the kicker, all that would do would slightly reduce our liability, for we would still be liable if something happened to a child. I also contacted our current insurance provider, and they said one, they do not now, and two, would not cover us for in-house child care service that we might provide. Note that we also did a survey of other professional associations, and none our size provide in-house child care. There is also the pragmatic issue of setting a breakout room aside for the duration of the meeting for child care. Next year in San Francisco, that will simply not be possible, and child-care providers will typically not set up a child care operation in a sleeping room.

Another option that has been aired is to provide child care grants. This sounds appealing, but is wrought with numerous operational pit-falls. Are the grants to be need-based, and if so how will that be determined? We would be opening ourselves up to all kinds of charges of bias if we moved in this direction given that there are some 1,700 graduate students who attend the meetings (the more likely candidates for a need-based child care grant), and provide only 5 or 10 grants. How could we come up with a rational fiscal need metric that is valid across the country and across universities with their varying GRA pay scales and meeting support stipends? And how do we monitor the grants that are handed out? Who is going to check to see if the individuals who received the grants actually come to the meetings, actually bring their children, actually pay someone to watch the kids, and are not paying their parents or a significant other (which is not the point of the grant). As a former white-collar crime investigator, I can state that the grant model is a scam waiting to happen.

9. *Ice Cream Social*

The best is always last! Please note Thursday, 1:30 to 2:45 on your calendar for the Ice Cream Social. I have aprons for all Board members as usual. The Ice Cream Social will be held in the Exhibit Hall.