

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst, NC – October 8, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn A. Damitz, MD, on Saturday, October 8, 2022. The Secretary, Eric Halvorson, MD confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION for approval of the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society from November 6, 2021 at The Omni Grove Park Inn, was proposed, seconded, and approved by the Membership present.

III. REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – Lynn A. Damitz, MD

Dr. Damitz thanked the NCSPS members for their support now and for the future of the Society. She acknowledged and thanked the Board for their support and knows moving forward we are in good hands.

Dr. Damitz noted some of the Covid related challenges many faced in the early part of this year and it that it is still looming in the background. This has changed things not only in our practices but also in daily lives of us all. We have faced many different changes this year such as the war in Ukraine, the state of the economy, other health related items and from that perspective it has already been an interesting year.

Our membership continues to be strong and stable.

The upcoming 2023 and 2024 annual meetings were reviewed.

The current meeting stats were reviewed related to registration and noted that this year we had a larger number of registrants than in the recent past.

Dr. Damitz reviewed some advocacy items in the state of North Carolina. The NCPS and ASPS both opposed legislation in the state that would have allowed Nurse Practitioners independent practice and also allowing them to consult with or refer to any other health care provider s as warranted by the needs of the patient without any supervision – Bill H149. This bill will continue to be opposed over time.

Also – ASPS will soon start a campaign Nationwide to raise awareness based on a February 2022 advisory statement that was made by The NC Board of Dentistry that outlines the position of the dental board, that the use of elective cosmetic procedures is outside the scope of practice of dentistry unless it involves the treatment of teeth, gums, jaws, etc. We are working with state legislators and dental boards across the country to begin work on this mission.

As many of you may know, BC/BS of NC is cutting in network contract rates as a result of the recent federal out of network balance billing law - no surprises act. Our goal from the ASPS Advocacy standpoint if anyone has experienced any of the reductions in reimbursement please reach out to Darcy McLaughlin who works with the Advocacy Arm of ASPS so that we may put together examples so that we can bring these forward to discuss the importance of opposing this.

On a positive note, a federal win was ensuring lasting smiles act which requires coverage from birth onward for congenital anomalies was passed in the House this year and we are now focused on efforts for success in the Senate.

Treasurer’s Report – Kristen Rezak, MD

Membership dues have been paid in full and we are adding 3 new members this year. Our administrative budgets are in line with the budget.

A review of the assets was provided and Dr. Rezak reviewed the balance sheet noting totals as of the end of September. We anticipate staying within the budget for the annual meeting and have slightly exceeded our income budget. Registration comparisons from previous years was shared with the membership noting that we did very well on that this year. Dr. Rezak noted that overall NCSPS is financially stable.

IV. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Lynn A. Damitz, MD

In compliance with the NCSPS bylaws, the slate of new active members was presented to the membership 30 days prior to this business meeting. This slate was provided for members on site. A **MOTION** was made to accept the slate of new members as presented, seconded and approved.

V. ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT – Lynn A. Damitz, MD

Three nominations from the floor for the Treasurers Position were announced, Brett Phillips, MD, Christopher Runyan, MD, Blair Wormer, MD. Nominations were closed. A member paper ballot was distributed, collected, tallied, and reviewed and approved by the Secretary, Eric Halvorson, MD. The new Treasurer was announced by Secretary Eric Halvorson, MD and Christopher Runyan, MD graciously accepted this two-year position.

New Slate of Officers for 2022-2023 are:

President	Nicholas Clavin, MD
Vice President	Kristen Rezak, MD
Secretary	Eric Halvorson, MD (2023)
Treasurer	Christopher Runyan, MD (2024)
Immediate Past President	Lynn A. Damitz, MD (2023)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Mary Ann Contogiannis noted that we have discussed in the past about hiring or paying for lobbying and it had been noted that our by-laws do not allow this. She suggested that we could look at this and consider changing the bylaws so that it would allow us when appropriate to look at supporting lobbying activities? She feels if we had a unified voice we could do much better in the state of NC. Dr. Damitz noted that we would need to look at this from a financial standpoint if the Society could sustain that.

A question was asked about the dates for the two future meetings and if it may be possible to change those to an October date as the dates now are generally when the board exams are and close to Thanksgiving. Susan will look into this and connect with both locations to see if the dates could be altered. If we cannot change for the two contracted years we should consider any future years to be in September or October to keep our attendance up.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Contogiannis provided an update from the North Carolina Medical Society. She currently serves on the medical task force committee which looks at allied health people, that Dr. Damitz spoke about earlier. She noted that the PA's are willing to work together and like the idea of having a little more flexibility but still collaborating with us. All different specialties are represented on the task force so everyone feels strongly that these allied health professionals should not have independent practice, but they would have to have more training. The nurses are not as understanding – they are telling the legislature that we are just telling them “no”.

The Medicaid Expansion is on the table and the thought that Berge has is that we have to have better medical provider coverage whether it is a physician, nurse practitioner or a PA. In order for us to get the monies and utilize them effectively, providing the care people need and want needs to be done. On one side they have tied the nurse practitioners to this allowing nurse practitioners total independent practice without collaboration. On the House side, they are willing to take the Medicaid Expansion to build on its own and not include the CON or Nursing provision. The Medical Society is trying to work with Berger on this. On the other side of things they are also looking at CON reform to try to make it a little more of an even playing field. Dr. Contogiannis urged everyone to get in touch with the legislators and Senators. They need to know how you feel about these topics. This is a big political cycle and a donation to our friends was suggested to help pick the House members and the Senators that are on our side. Dr. Damitz noted that she could help work with ASPS to obtain templated letters to provide to our NC members.

VIII. INDUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Damitz introduced Dr. Nicholas Clavin as the new President of The North Carolina Society of Plastic Surgeons and passed the gavel to him.

Dr. Clavin graciously accepted this new position and adjourned the 2022 business meeting.