

To: ASC Board
From: Chris Eskridge
Date: November 1, 2021
Re: Executive Director's Report

This has been a very busy six months since the last Board Meeting. This report will focus on the operational aspects of the organization. I can report that we continue to be financially sound, and remain a vibrant, active professional society. The Chicago meetings appear as if they will attract around 1,600 attendees.

1. *Membership Figures*

As of today, we have 3,040 members. This is exactly where we were last year (technically 3,039) but still short of our 2019 figure of 3,407. The 3,000+ figures for the last two COVID years however is strong, and I fully expect to see our 2022 membership figure to be above 3,400, ie., back to a pre-COVID figure.

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. The Board will be asked at the upcoming Tuesday Board Meeting, to approve the establishment of a new division, the Division of Public Opinion and Policy.

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. *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 18 divisions and can select from roughly a dozen different publications and choose to receive each of those 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. 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.

5. *Annual Meeting Preparations*

A. Chicago (2021) - We did our site visit to Chicago in the Spring of 2020 and lined things up. We have worked with this hotel staff in the past, and have an excellent relationship with them. Things are organized, the program book is being printed, the Fire Marshal has approved the meeting layout, bags and badges have been ordered, money has been collected, meeting room set-ups finalized, AV have been arranged, and food has been ordered....we are ready to go! At this point, there are 1,500 individuals registered for the meetings.

B. Atlanta (2022) – We anticipate a large meeting next year. We have run numerous meetings in the Atlanta Marriott so we are somewhat familiar with the layout of the hotel, but given the anticipated size of the meeting, we are very much aware of the need to refresh our memory and to make sure we have a solid handle on the meeting space. We have been working with hotel staff already, and we plan to travel to Atlanta in April, in conjunction with the ASC Spring Board Meeting, to visit with the hotel staff in person and to review the hotel space and layout.

6. *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.