

President's Page

In May, President Glenn Merchant accepted his Past President's pin at Thursday evening's Honors Night and he can look back on a successful and productive year. He can also look back on helping our organization achieve much better financial management and a plan to better maintain our status as the global source of aerospace medical and aerospace human performance expertise, experience, and productivity. Glenn's vision will be realized over the coming years, in part due to his agreement to stay involved in some of the transitional concepts...right Glenn?

During the turmoil before our Chicago meeting, Glenn did a wonderful job keeping spirits high, focusing on the job of providing quality CME, and recommending future alternatives to our reliance on one Annual Meeting for fiscal stability.

Thanks to some hard work and support by several of our senior members, the severest effects of the U.S. fiscal cliff were mostly overcome. This allowed more of our U.S. members to be funded for attendance and with a wonderful turnout by our international members, the meeting was a success on all fronts: educational content, committee actions, constituent organization events, and corporate activities. The success was also due to those unfunded attendees who showed their dedication to the science and the Association by being there at their own expense. The efforts of the Association Headquarters led by Jeff Sventek and our AIM team led by Walt Galanty were crucial in the effort. The final tally was 1,177 total registrants, 43% of which were non-U.S. registrants from 59 countries, as well as 41 companies exhibiting. Thanks to Cathy DiBiase for this month's Constituent write-up.

The Aerospace Nursing Society was founded in 1964 as a constituent of the AsMA. Our society began with mainly U.S. Air Force nurses and professionals and has grown to include members who work for organizations such as the FAA, major air carriers, NASA, and Civilian air medevac companies from many nations. The work of these professionals includes: performing patient transport (both rotor and fixed wing); providing nursing and technical care to astronauts, aviators, sailors, and soldiers; overseeing requirements for specific clinical certifications; planning for contingency response; and performing biomedical research.

For over 50 years our members have been very closely involved in supporting the AsMA mission. ANS members have served several committees throughout the years and have presented posters, slide and panel abstracts at the annual meeting. Our membership includes Past President Dr. Marian Sides, Fellows, and Associate Fellows. Our current list of officers includes: Cathy DiBiase, President; Kim Barber, Vice President; Chris Cloutier, Secretary; Eileen Hadbavny, Treasurer.

We have been working hard at recruiting new members over the past several years. There are several factors



James T. Webb, Ph.D.

that have affected our declining membership roster such as economic challenges, operations tempo of the military nurses, and limited nursing focus within the research and panel presentations. The Aerospace Nurse, Technician, and Allied Health Professional of the Aerospace Nursing Society is one that endeavors to encompass all of the disciplines of healthcare and nursing to care for the ill and injured, and to keep healthy those in their charge. Regardless of our smaller number we strive to maintain our vision – “to contribute to the present space-minded age, further its knowledge of aeronautic and aerospace medicine, participate in promoting the science of nursing and forward research within aerospace medicine, and provide a focal point for Flight Nurses and Allied Health Specialists who are members of the Association.”

We typically have a luncheon each Wednesday at the annual meeting, followed by our business meeting open to all ANS members. At our luncheon we present several awards for outstanding contributions to the field of nursing, as well as clinical practice, education, management, and/or research of aerospace disciplines. This year we had no recipients and did not hold our usual luncheon. We do have the Klinker Award presented annually at the Honors night banquet for outstanding contributions to the field of aeromedical evacuation.

This year, with great assistance from Dr. Yvette DeBois and the Corporate and Sustaining Affiliate, we sponsored a workshop at the Annual Meeting aimed at nurses in the Chicago area or conference attendees not familiar with Aerospace Nursing. The title of the workshop was “Aerospace Nursing Careers and Research Opportunities.”

We enjoyed attending the Annual Meeting in Chicago. It is wonderful to connect with colleagues and meet new like-minded associates. Please help us increase our membership by letting any colleague that you know who is a nurse, technician, or allied health professional working in the aerospace arena that they are welcome to join us. Our link is on the Constituents tab within the Aerospace Medical Association webpages.