

Birth of the Arthroscopy Association of North America

It is August of 1981 in Rio de Janeiro during the triennial meeting of SICOT (The International Society of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology). A small number of the Directors of the International Arthroscopy Association met to discuss the future of organized arthroscopy in North America. This caucus consisted of John Joyce of Philadelphia, Robert Jackson of Toronto, Alan Bass of Vancouver and Ralph Lidge of Arlington Heights, IL. These discussions were based on the fact that the North American Chapter of the IAA was the largest in the world by a substantial number and that the educational needs of North American arthroscopists were rapidly growing. Diagnostic arthroscopy had been largely accepted by the medical community and techniques of arthroscopic surgery were rapidly developing. Arthroscopy had been introduced in the private sector of medicine and largely shunned as ‘unlikely to succeed’ by the academic community. It was therefore concluded that an independent association was needed to meet the educational needs of orthopaedic surgeons interested in developing their skills. Thus was the North American Chapter of the International Arthroscopy Association converted into the Arthroscopy Association of North America. The IAA chapter members became the founding members of AANA.

AANA 1981-1985



1981 – John J. Joyce, III, MD

At that meeting it was decided that the new organization would be led by the following officers: President, John McGinty; Vice President, James Guhl; Treasurer, Ralph Lidge; Secretary, Alan Bass. The organization would retain the board of directors of the North American Chapter as its Board of Directors.

AANA continued to serve as the North American chapter of the IAA, but developed its own autonomy administratively and financially; in other words it became a new organization with a partial function of representing North America in the international association.



1982 – John McGinty, MD

The Arthroscopy Association of North America was incorporated in the state of Illinois in 1982 and had its first annual meeting in the Drake Hotel in Chicago on May 5, 1982, presided over by John McGinty.

Bylaws and articles of incorporation were approved. It was determined that advancement of the first Vice President to President would be automatic at the annual meeting. The term of the treasurer and secretary would be three years. A nominating committee was chaired by John Joyce and would be chaired by the immediate past president each year. Attendance at the annual meeting every three years was required for continuing membership. Dues were set at \$150 per year. Members were allowed to sponsor two candidates per year and requirements for membership were established. A conflict of interest statement was developed. Future meetings were scheduled for three years with members

charged \$100 and non-members \$300. The following committees were appointed: 1) Ethics and standards; 2) Instrument liaison; 3) Publication; 4) Complications (Jesse DeLee); 5) Research (Terry Whipple); and 6) Education (DeHaven). The development of a logo was assigned to Robert Bechtol of Santa Rosa, the individual who did such a great job with the IAA logo.



1983 – James Guhl, MD

James Guhl assumed the presidency after the second annual meeting in January. During that year Robert Metcalf suggested a quarterly journal named *The Journal of Arthroscopy and Related Surgery*. The O'Connor award was established to give an honorarium for the best original papers presented at the annual meeting. A videotape library was started. Dr. Metcalf suggested a voluntary \$100 assessment for research grants with an ultimate goal of \$500,000. Terry Whipple was appointed chairman of the research committee with a charge to award grants for research projects. The organization was approved as a 501(C6) by the Internal Revenue Service. Robert Metcalf was named as editor and publisher of the Journal. Previous CME courses were incorporated into the Fall Course, which was to ultimately be a standard psychomotor skills course to be run annually with planning ahead for six years. The annual meeting was set for March or April each year. Fellowship guidelines were established. Tom Nelson was hired as executive director of the association. AANA's ownership of the Journal was established with the formation of a corporation with its own board of trustees; the trustees were to be the immediate four past presidents and two members to be appointed by the President. The subscription price for the Journal was set at \$60 and incorporated into the dues for members. A project to study complications of arthroscopy was given to Jesse DeLee and the video library project was given to Whit Ewing.



1984 – Robert Metcalf

Robert Metcalf assumed the presidency in March. In that year Tom Nelson moved to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Sanford Hill was hired as executive director. Ward Casscells was named editor of the Journal and Raven Press as its publisher. Arthroscopic manufacturers were contributing substantially to research, \$100,000 between 1982 and 1984. AANA became more active in psychomotor skills education. Michelle Johnson was selected as coordinator of the first course at the Broadmoor in the Fall of 1984. Carl Highgenboten and his committee developed standards for fellowship in arthroscopic surgery. Dues were increased to \$300 with a mandatory \$100 for research. There were 624 members in the spring of 1985. Presidential pins and medallions were authorized. The IRS approved a change in the status of the organization to 501(C3).



1985 – Lawrence Crane, MD

Following the annual meeting in April Lawrence Crane assumed the presidency. It was a busy time for growth and innovation. Public relations videotapes were initiated. Robert Metcalf was appointed chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Journal. An AANA traveling exhibit was started under the direction of Ralph Lidge. The purpose of this exhibit was to inform related societies about the activities of AANA at their annual meetings. The registration fee for the annual meeting was dropped for members. The American shoulder and Elbow Society requested an arthroscopy committee from AANA..

During that year an interesting project with the goal of creating a simulator to teach arthroscopy was explored. With the cooperation of AANA and Dr. Crane, Arthur Ellison proposed the creation of a psychomotor skills lab in North Adams, MA to be housed at the North Adams Hospital in the Berkshire Mountains in western Massachusetts. Howard Sweeney represented AANA in these deliberations. The possibilities of simulation in surgical education were explored with Flight Safety International in New Jersey, the organization that provides simulation for airline pilots' certification. It became obvious that developing simulation for surgical education was extremely expensive and would require financial backing well beyond the resources of AANA. Governor Dukakis of Massachusetts promised financial backing for the project.