



SOUTHERN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION

Office of the Secretary

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2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Surgical Association

Dear Southern Surgical Association Members and Guests:

It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I have the privilege of being this year's Local Arrangements Chair, and on behalf of President John Hanks, the Council and our Officers, I would like formally to invite you to the 130th annual meeting of the Southern Surgical Association on December 1-December 5, 2018 at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida. For my wife Patty and I, this is a special joy. Patty grew up just north of The Breakers Hotel on Dunbar Road, and used to walk the beach past The Breakers whenever time permitted. Palm Beach is also where we were married 29 years ago at St. Edward Roman Catholic Church, which is less than a half a mile from The Breakers on North County Road. We hope to make your stay here in Palm Beach a pleasant and memorable one in whatever way we can. The Breakers staff has gone out of their way to guarantee us a first-class experience, leaving no detail overlooked.

It has been my responsibility to arrange social events that are both fun and relaxing. We hope that you take advantage of the events that are unique to South Florida. Enclosed with this note is a calendar of the recreational activities that have been worked out with The Breakers. Please use the registration form and return it to me as soon as possible so that we can begin to plan appropriately for the activities offered. On Sunday, from 1-3pm, **Dr. Charles Yeo and Mrs. Celine Croce** will be hosting the Men's and Women's Tennis Tournaments. Also, on Sunday, from 1-5pm, **Dr. Martin Croce and Mrs. Gayle Meredith** will be hosting the Men's and Women's Tournaments, at Breakers West. The Ocean Course on the grounds of The Breakers has been undergoing a significant facelift since late this past spring. Although the course may look like it's playable, it actually won't be ready for significant use until after the SSA meeting has come and gone. Breakers West is a wonderful course and will fill our needs nicely. Because the course is about 20-25 minutes away by car, the Breakers will organize transportation for our party, the cost of which will be included in the fee for the round. The transportation will be leaving the Breakers at 1200 so that our golfers can have time to warm-up before the competition begins. Back by popular demand, **Dr. and Mrs. Samir and Cynthia Fakhry**, have graciously agreed to once again host the Croquet and Bocce Ball Tournament, Sunday from 2-4pm. This will take place on the back Lawn of the Breakers. Once again, taking advantage of Palm Beach being the closet mainland to the Gulf Stream in Florida, we have arranged Deep Sea

Fishing with 48-52 ft. fully-equipped boats with Captain and crew, accompanying up to 6 guests on Sunday from 12:30-4pm, with transportation leaving directly from The Breakers, to the marina, 15 minutes away (the cost of transportation is not included in the fee for fishing). The inlet to the ocean is 2 minutes from the marina, allowing immediate access to sport fishing galore! Because of the world class reef just off the beach from The Breakers, we will again offer a **Guided Reef Snorkeling Tour**, accompanied by a PADI instructor, on Sunday from 2:00-3:30pm leaving right from the beach (weather permitting). The Annual Spouse's Coffee/Tea will once again take place on Monday from 10:00-12:00noon, directly following the Presidential Address, hosted by Bonnie Hanks. The popular Bridge Group, which Gayle Meredith has graciously agreed to host again this year, will take place on Monday, from 1:30-3:30pm. Also, on Monday, an Island Bicycle Tour, hosted by The Breakers will take place from 1:30-3:30pm. On Tuesday, from 10:00-12:00 noon, The Southern Surgical Book Discussion: Carolyn's Club led by **Mrs. Jean Tepas** will meet to discuss *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. Finally, also on Tuesday, an **Eco Adventure/Kayak/Paddle Board Excursion**, will take place from 2:00-4:00pm, with transportation from The Breakers lobby (which is not included in the cost of the event).

You can find more information regarding these events and tours on the attached sheet. The registration form notes any additional fees which will be billed directly to your account at The Breakers. Once again, I encourage you all to complete the registration form with the events you would like to participate in and return it to me as noted at the bottom of the form at your earliest convenience so that we can estimate interest and organize events.

In addition to the above listed events, we encourage each of you to attend Monday evening's **New Member Reception**, from 5:30-7:00pm. This will once again, be a great opportunity to mingle with the new members and their spouses and/or guests as well as re-connect with other members that you may not have seen since last year's meeting. As a special treat for this year's **Presidential Reception and Dinner Dance**, Tuesday evening, MusicWorks, a phenomenal world class band, has agreed to be our music for this year. This group is well known and has performed at The Breakers in the past. *It is imperative that you sign up for the banquet so that an accurate count can be provided to The Breakers.*

Most importantly, the scientific program will feature highly competitive papers, providing the latest data and information, with opportunity for discussion. The President and The Council have picked the very best abstracts to be presented. In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Reid Adams (Local Arrangements Chair 2017) and Dr. Richard Lynn (Local Arrangements Chair 2016) for their hand holding in providing me the background to be of assistance to you this year in my role as your Local Arrangements Chair. It has been a privilege and I hope that I have done the position justice. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time, night or day about any question, no matter how seemingly trivial. My email address is jfsween@emory.edu, via cell 404-895-7172. To reach my assistant Ann Faison, please call our office 404-727-5800 or email her at awill29@emory.edu. I look forward to seeing you soon.

John F. Sweeney, MD, FACS Chair, Local Arrangements Committee