

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHETISTS, INC.



July 27, 1942

Arthur E. Guedel, M. D.  
1633 Wellington Road  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Art:

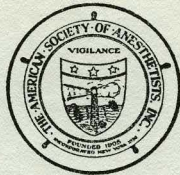
Just a brief note to assure you that I have not gone completely haywire and that I have not been misguided by air-castles or their inventors, but that I have continued my original and probably unfortunate practice of asking the opinions of a number of individuals before making any move. I have tried since Tom's death to get a cross-section from different sources. Then I have actually consulted, perhaps too frequently, with the data I have gathered. From those sources the course of the Society has been determined. In fairness to Rovey, I must say that the course followed by the Society under my direction has been approved by Rovey in many instances, but not in all. I quite frequently regret taking his advise when I have done so. On the other hand two or three suggestions of his have worked well.

You will recall that the election for officers are by mail. Nominations also are by mail. The nominating committee will present its report at the Board of Directors meeting to be held this coming Friday. If you have anyone for any position you wish to urge on the nominating committee please notify Bob Hammond, Chairman, Harold Kelley, or Rolland Whitacre. After their official nominations are in, if they are unsatisfactory to the members of the Society, they have the opportunity of writing in their nominations which will be carried on the official ballot which will be announced at the October meeting. At the close of the October meeting the nominations will be closed. Those persons whose names have been submitted will then be advised and their individual reaction; that is, their willingness to run or refusal; will be noted on the ballot. This is in line with the New York Academy of Medicine ballot where all names appear. Those who have sent in refusals are listed but marked with an asterisk.

We have to replace Tom Buchanan on the Fellowship Committee and two others whose terms expired in 1940. We did not have an election to this committee after 1939 because it was expected that the Board of Anesthesiology would take over the work. When the Board did not take over the



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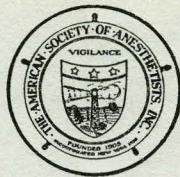
work it became evident that the Fellowship probably should be continued. That will be definitely decided at the next Board of Directors meeting. I will get a letter off to you immediately after the executive committee meeting giving you all the details so that you can manipulate the strings from your end if it is necessary.

The following facts should be presented I believe. I was willing to have Rovey President of the Society this following year. In fact I was rather provoked at the nomination going outside the United States this year. Wes is a good friend and he has made an excellent officer at considerable expense to himself. I have no objection to our fellow countrymen, but I had hoped that this organization would remain actually nationalistic. I do hope for a Congress of World States in the political field after this war is over. That probably is the place for the so-called International Research Society. Getting back to the A.S.A., I had hoped you would accept the Presidency last year. There should be no objection now other than your inability to attend all meetings, to prevent acceptance should you be nominated. I think the Presidency should be a working office. This is in line with your own statements during our phone conversation a year ago.

As Tom and I envisioned this organization many years ago, we planned an alternation between Waters and Lundy. It would not seem politic to me to put two men in the same group in two consecutive years. On the other hand the tearing down of the work begun by one individual representing one group can be sufficient to wreck the entire plans or organizations if the successor wishes to be contrary. I would have no objections to seeing John Lundy President of the American Society of Anesthetists in 1944. However, John's methods have so antagonized a sufficiently large group that I am afraid he might do more harm than good, in the Presidency in 1944 following Rovey. I do not know what the nominating committee will produce but I wrote my personal request that they consider Rolland Whitacre for the Presidency. I have subsequently notified them that I have had word that he probably would not be available as he is apparently in the military age group. If he is not available my second choice would be Ralph Waters to follow Rovey, and John to follow Waters. I would prefer that succession for this reason: John practically forces Ralph to relinquish the chairmanship of the American Board of Anesthesiology with his great desire to "run things". I did not prevent Ralph's resignation this year although I did the year before. Through natural courses over which we have no control Tom was chairman for only two years. Ralph succeeded and was chairman for two years. John is now chairman



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and I intend, unless it seems very much more important than it does at the present time, to see that Henry Ruth, the "perpetual Vice-President", has a chance to demonstrate his ability as President. Then I believe Doctor H. Boyd Stewart, who has made the greatest sacrifice of any to work with our Board, should have a term before his final appearance with us.

As you recall Ralph Waters was chairman of the first Section of the American Medical Association, a great honor so I am told. At that time he was chairman of the American Board of Anesthesiology. I believe it is time he should be elected chairman of the American Society of Anesthetists. John is now chairman of the A.B.A. and in 1944 will be chairman of the American Medical Section which I have the privilege of serving this year. There is no harm in having the same individual chairman of a number of organizations providing there is not much work to be done. The American Board of Anesthesiology, however, requires considerable of those men who are officers. It would seem to me, therefore, that John's having the chairmanship of the Board now and next year and probably in 1945, and having the chairmanship of the Section in 1944, he should be ready for the chairmanship of the Society in 1945. I have written very frankly to him asking for his personal reaction but he had not replied. I fear, and I hope wrongly, that he would like to "put one over" on Ralph by being chairman of the Society before Ralph.

Because of the war conditions and with the saving grace of a little oil from Tom Buchanan's oil can, there has been no out and out conflict to date, in spite of a good start about one or two years ago which had not died down at the time of the Atlantic City meeting. I do believe we have the ability to hold the Society in line even if John prefers to follow Rovey. He is not as old in years as Ralph, either by calandar or professional occupation. His decisions are prompt and usually accurate. John and I think alike on more things than Ralph and I. Perhaps because of Ralph's generous nature I have persuaded him on too many occasions to follow my plan. Nevertheless I feel that both of these men should be considered promptly and that an ideal opportunity has arisen owing to the war to get in the last of the so-called older group so that when this war is over the youngsters can take over and run things to their hearts' desires.

Now, Art, I feel and hope that this time I am correct, and that regardless of your doubts the various officers even down to the secretaryship and the organization as a whole are strong enough to get through.





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I know it would go better if all the officers were in harmony but that would be true under any circumstances and under the war conditions I think that any combination would probably work.

I did not like John Lundy's suggestion in his last letter <sup>to</sup> me that all of the Board of Directors should be reelected. This tends to duplicate Frank McMechan's old organization. I grant you that that is the way armies have been held together in the past but I am afraid that a touch of my German background crops out in trying to place a worker in a working position and a thinker in a thinking position, to recognize ability, to give honor where honor is due and to let the rest of them try to change it if they can.

*Refer*  
I am sorry to report that Bob Buckley was extremely low the last week or so. I doubt very much if he is still alive. I did not know him very well but was very pleased to be a speaking acquaintance. He certainly was a great individual and it was too bad he was to have this trouble. So far as your telegram which was sent in all good faith is concerned I am afraid it was a mistake because Bob's difficulty turned out to be very serious. Had it been a diagnostic affair with a favorable report I am sure Lew would have passed your telegram on.

*Refer*  
We have just reached the 120 mark for our members in the Armed Forces. This is the number we have information on. I am certain that with a correct list we would find probably another eight or ten. This is pretty good for an organization of 1050 members which includes nearly 100 Canadian and Foreign members and approximately one-third of the total made up of women who are not eligible for military service at the present time.

*#*  
Harriet sends love to you and Florence. Lew has been at me for a week either to answer your letter myself or have him write to you. I hope he has written. Drop me a line if you can. Take care of those fingers. Have you tried John Evans' treatment of injected oxygen into the forearms and working it down to the fingers? I have done it on myself and can assure you of no disastrous affects although I don't believe it did me very much good. I have seen a number of his patients and others who have had extremely satisfactory results.

Very sincerely yours,

*Paul*  
Paul M. Wood, M. D.  
Secretary

*Ant: Want this to go  
So only read 1 page*  
PMW:RW  
*Paul*