



Virginia Society of  
Plastic Surgeons

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings VASPS members,

I would like to announce, with great enthusiasm, that the Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons is an official affiliated organization of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). Discussions were ongoing over the last several months to determine the best route to ensure the future success of the VASPS.

Issues taken into consideration were administration, resources and cost. This partnership through the ASPS Affiliated Organization Program will

allow VASPS access to the extensive resources that ASPS has to offer without compromising the values and the mission of the Virginia Society.

The ASPS infrastructure provides experienced and dedicated staff including meeting planners, education program administrators and marketing professionals. These benefits will provide us with the platform to showcase our Society and the topics that matter most to our members during the biennial meeting as well as increase the value of membership for our Virginia Plastic Surgeons.

Legislative activities will continue as they have in the past and membership dues will continue to be allocated to the benefit of our members. The VASPS bylaws remain as the governing body of the membership. The Society's funds will also be maintained in an account separate from ASPS.

Jacqueline Luna, VASPS Executive Director and Affiliated Relations Program Manager, and I have meetings on a weekly basis to make certain the transition is smooth and to stay abreast of current issues.

Always feel free to contact me via email at [eas@silberblatt.com](mailto:eas@silberblatt.com) or by calling my office at (540) 580-8374.



**A Note from  
ASPS President,  
Dr. Alan Matarasso**

*The American Society of Plastic Surgeons is proud to welcome the Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons as a new ASPS Affiliated Member Organization. The VASPS mission to advance the art and science of plastic surgery through education, innovation, and to act as patient advocates perfectly aligns with the mission of ASPS to advance quality care to plastic surgery patients by encouraging high standards of training, ethics, physician practice and research in plastic surgery. We are excited to join forces and strengthen the plastic surgery community through our collaboration with VASPS. I look forward to advancing our specialty together in the years to come.*

### **We are going paperless!**

All upcoming newsletters will be sent by email only. Please be sure to watch your inbox for future issues!

**Dues collection will continue in the coming weeks –  
watch for the notice in your inbox!**

## 2019 VASPS BIENNIAL MEETING

We are hard at work developing the program for this year's VASPS biennial meeting! The dates are set for the one and half day event. The meeting will begin the afternoon of November 22 through the 23. We are in process of working out the details of the contract for the Landsdowne Resort and Spa, located just outside of Leesburg, Virginia. If the contract does not prove to be beneficial, we will be sure to let you know.

The meeting will be accredited to offer CME credits to include the two credits to meet the mandatory opioid educational requirement. The abstract submission site will be launched in the coming weeks to accept papers from our local training programs in the surrounding

areas. The site will also be equipped to accept papers from our member plastic surgeons interested in presenting.

We are encouraging our members to submit contact information for local representatives of preferred manufacturers and suppliers to exhibit at the meeting. Please send to [vaspsadmin@vasps.org](mailto:vaspsadmin@vasps.org)

Educational programming, registration and additional details related to the meeting will be distributed, once final.

**We are looking forward to seeing you in November!**



*Landsdowne Resort and Spa*

## VASPS Members Advocate on Capitol Hill in June

Following the Virginia Society's active advocacy efforts in Richmond this year, Virginia plastic surgeons will advocate for patients and the specialty at the annual ASPS Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. taking place June 17-19. During the two-and-a-half-day event, plastic surgeons will learn more about the state and federal legislative issues that impact plastic surgery practices. The Summit is also a forum for plastic surgeons to hear directly from key political speakers and members of Congress about the most pressing issues in health care today.

Topics include single payer proposals in Congress, state laws and regulations on the use of board certification in physician advertising. Additionally, FDA representative will speak to breast implant safety and fat grafting. CNN correspondent S.E. Cupp will offer insight into D.C.'s

innerworkings, drawing on her recent interviews with some of the country's most prominent political figures.

Most importantly, the Advocacy Summit is plastic surgery's chance to impact federal legislation and advance issues that will improve access and quality of care.

On June 19, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with their members of Congress and administration to advance some of the most pressing issues impacting the specialty and its patients. We encourage you to join us for this important event where we can make strides to improve health policies. For more information about the Summit, visit [www.plasticsurgery.org/advocacysummit](http://www.plasticsurgery.org/advocacysummit).



*Victoria Vastine, MD, Chris Campbell, MD and Henry Wilson, MD following their meeting with Sen. Mark Warner's (D-VA) office at the 2018 Advocacy Summit.*



# Legislative Update: 2019 Session Wrap Up

## TRACKING

This session, VASPS and ASPS closely monitored legislation regarding maintenance of certification, physician assistant scope of practice, coverage of gender transition services and out-of-network billing.

## ENGAGEMENT

### **Out-of-Network Billing**

The Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons supported fast-moving out-of-network (OON) legislation this session, with the support of ASPS. Since 2018, VASPS worked closely with other Virginia medical societies during good faith negotiations with the health plans, as instructed by the state legislature. The house of medicine was optimistic that it would be able to strike a deal that protected patients from balance billing for emergency room care while still allowing physicians to negotiate fair reimbursement with the health plans. Unfortunately, the carriers were unwilling to meet the group halfway and the negotiations stalled.

VASPS, the Medical Society of Virginia, other physician specialties, and the hospitals worked with Delegate Ware and Senator Sturtevant to introduce legislation that would:

- require health plans to pay providers a fair and reasonable reimbursement
- ban balance billing in the emergency department; require health plans to pay providers directly
- ensure care is covered regardless of the final diagnosis.

The health plans introduced their own measure that would ban balance billing in the emergency department and set out-of-network reimbursement at the average in-network rate. We are pleased to report that the carriers' bill was successfully defeated in committee while the VASPS

measure advanced throughout the legislative session. ASPS submitted comments to the House Committee on Appropriations in support of the bill. Unfortunately, the bill failed to receive a hearing in committee before the end of the legislative session.

However, the legislature included a provision in the state budget bill that would have: (1) created a balance billing workgroup comprised of carriers; and (2) established an OON reimbursement formula based on a percentage of Medicare rates. This proposal was met with strong opposition from the house of medicine. VASPS President Enrique A. Silberblatt, MD, MA, FACS submitted a letter to the governor urging him to amend this provision. Throughout the budget process, VASPS and its lobbyist were instrumental in securing Gov. Northam's support for an amendment that would: (1) expand the workgroup to include physicians and consumers; and (2) eliminate the proposed fee schedule. Virginia plastic surgeons signed an ASPS grassroots letter addressed to the General Assembly urging support of the governor's amendment. We are pleased to report that despite a last-minute attempt by the health plans to thwart organized medicine's efforts, the General Assembly accepted Gov. Northam's amendment on April 3. The workgroup will likely begin work this summer.

### **Patient Notifications**

Although the balance billing legislation failed to pass, a patient notification bill (H.B. 2538) supported by ASPS and VASPS fared better. ASPS and VASPS submitted comments in support of the measure, which requires patients to be notified when a service may be out-of-network. However, the bill informs patients without placing onerous administrative burdens on the referring physician. We are pleased to report that Gov. Northam signed the bill into law on March 18.