

W. Eugene Stern, MD
AANS President
1979 - 1980



You pay me a compliment and reveal your optimism to believe I could recall, with veracity, the kind of detail you request over the period 1979-1980.

In reviewing my presidential address (JNeurosurg, vol 53, Aug '80), I noted problems for which I considered solutions were improbable for the AANS at the time. These I related (a) the loss of faith by government in our professional integrity, etc., (b) the lack of recognition (by those who demand accountability from the profession) of the valiant efforts we were (and are) making to correct our own deficiencies.

I, then, addressed what I considered positive options available to the organization: (a) The offering of advice and the use of persuasion as we developed policies which could influence governmental legislation and regulation. (I cited the good work of the Joint Committee on Drugs and Devices) and (b) taking action where we (the AANS) had executive capabilities such as:

1. The assessment of the scientific basis and value of various procedures we use in our specialty, especially new developments.
2. The wisdom of Regionalization for certain surgical procedures (i.e. frequently sensitive ones including mortality and outcome analysis).
3. Support for research training within our specialty and an important proposal to be embraced by the Association.

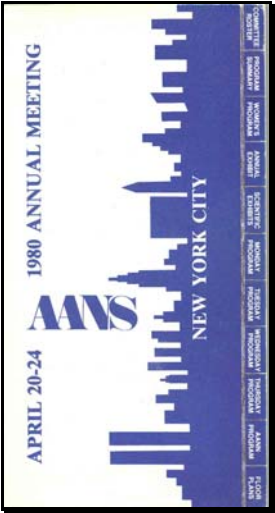
Apart from these items dealt with in my address, let me ruminate on issues which I recall were troublesome, at least to me, at the time: One such was the splintered loyalties of the members of our several neurosurgical societies. The splintering impinged directly on the goal of the accepting (by all neurosurgical groups) of The AANS as national "Spokesman" for neurosurgery. Another item was what I considered a misplaced emphasis by the combined, socio-economic committees of the states on trying to get more money into neurosurgical pockets.

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A third was determining the nature of the relationship of The AANS vis-à-vis neurosurgical nurses and their organization.

Beyond the above, my memory will rely on my colleagues to fill in which glaring gaps or errors exist.

February 2006

Vital Statistics	
	<p>1979-80</p> <p>Officers: W. Eugene Stern, President Robert B. King, President Elect Robert L. McLaurin, Vice President Charles E. Brackett, Secretary Byron C. Pevehouse, Treasurer</p> <p>Annual Meeting Location: New York, NY</p> <p>Presidential Address: A nobleness of purpose. JNeurosurg 53:137-143, 1980.</p> <p>Cushing Orator: The Honorable Kingman Brewster, United States Ambassador to Great Britain. Is the dream of a voluntary society still possible? JNeurosurg 53:279-284, 1980.</p> <p>Award: Cushing Medal - Paul C. Bucy</p> <p>Membership: 2388</p>