



## INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

*The world's oldest and largest international dental honorary society*

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Dov Sydney .S .Dr :Editor

### COLLEGE UPDATE December 2013



From International President  
Dr. I. Leon Aronson

### Looking Back, Looking Forward

#### Dear Fellow Sydney

This will be my last Presidential Message as I head to the Valley of Past Presidents in a few weeks.

This has been a year that my wife Barbara and I will never forget. It has been fun, and I believe much was accomplished for the College. Before I go further, let me say that the things that stand out most for us were the wonderful people and new friends that we made from around the world.

#### Our Travels

Our travels took us to Myanmar, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Copenhagen, China and New Orleans. At each stop along the way we were treated royally. Our deepest thanks go out to all who hosted us and made the trips so enjoyable. We were so impressed with the many educational and humanitarian projects that the ICD is involved with around the world, and the realization that every Fellow is a part of every project regardless of where it is happening. Many of these projects were

initiated and moved forward by individual Fellows.

### **Great Committee Work**

My Ad-Hoc Committees revealed information that will benefit the College in years to come. I especially want to single out the Ad-Hoc Committee on Membership Classification and Trends headed by Charley Siroky, of blessed memory. This committee revealed that over the last five years there has been no growth of the College. This leads us to the formation of a new Ad-Hoc Committee devoted to membership, which will be chaired by Bettie McKaig. I stressed the importance of growth and development on all of my visitations, and the need for this committee is magnified by the disappointing number of inductees that were inducted in many of the Sections I visited. I told Bettie that the future of the College lies with this committee, and it is true in that with no growth, the College cannot survive.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Council Representation, chaired by Vice President Phillip Dowell, made much progress and I thank him and all on his committee for addressing this difficult subject.

The USA Section gave an excellent presentation on Strategic Planning and after much delay, this subject will be acted on in the coming year with a new Ad-Hoc Committee devoted to Strategic Planning. This committee will be chaired by the experienced and very talented President-Elect Joe Kenneally.

We also have opened communication and collaboration with the Organization for Safety and Prevention (OSAP) with Christine Benoit and Bettie McKaig working in this area which has the potential to expand our mission to many more areas of the world.

### **The Chengdu Meeting**

A highlight of my year came at the meeting in Chengdu, China when I had the pleasure of presenting Manfred Seidemann from Santiago, Chile and Don Johnson from Atlanta, Georgia, the Ottofy Okumura Award. This is the highest award given by the College, and these two recipients were more than worthy of this honor.

Secretary General Jack Hinterman had a vision when he recommended and developed a Global Visionary Fund for the College. This Fund will allow the College to help Sections in need as well as advance the many humanitarian and educational needs that exist. Past USA Section President and Past Councilor Chuck Simons was the first to step forward with a donation to this fund, which saw others follow. This opportunity to expand our efforts has generated much excitement, and it is hoped that many Fellows will join this effort as they learn more about all the good it will enable the College to do.

### **My Executive Committee and Council Colleagues**

I want to thank the Executive Committee, all Council Members, Committee Members and especially Secretary General Jack Hinterman and his assistant Chelsea White for all they did to move our College forward. I am reminded of Dov Sydney's question during my interview when he asked; "what makes for a good leader", and my answer was, "that a good leader is defined by the team he/she is leading". That proved to be a prophetic statement this year as I could not have asked for a better team to lead. I want to give a special thanks to Dov Sydney, our Editor and Communications Director, for all he does to get the message of the College around the world. I certainly cannot forget to thank our Facebook guru, Garry Lunn. While there are too many others to mention, a big thanks to all of my ICD mentors and role models who played a part that enabled me to serve the ICD in an officer position.

I want to wish incoming President Woong Yang and all of the incoming Officers and Council much luck in the coming year. I remarked at the banquet at the USA Section meeting in New Orleans that my fellowship in the ICD has been, without a doubt, the most meaningful in my professional career, and I will be forever thankful for having the opportunity to be a Fellow in the world's oldest and most prestigious honorary dental organization.

### **My Vision**

I want to close this final message with an essay written by Naturalist Milton Olsens entitled "The Behavior of Geese." This describes my past, present and future vision of the International College of Dentists.

"In the Spring when you see geese heading back north for the summer flying along in a "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what scientists have discovered about why they fly that way.

It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Basic Truth #1 People who share common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of others. Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Basic Truth #2 There is strength and power (safety too) in numbers when traveling in the same direction as others with whom we share a common goal. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

Basic Truth #3 It pays to take turns doing hard jobs, with people or with geese flying north or south. These geese honk from behind to encourage those upfront to keep up with their speed.

Basic Truth #4 Those who are exercising leadership need to be remembered with our active support and praise. Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group."

Basic Truth #5

We must stand by those among us in their times of need.

**In Fellowship,  
Leon Aronson, DDS MS FICD  
2013 President  
International College of Dentists**