



COLLEGE UPDATE

August 2013

From International President
Dr. I. Leon Aronson

THE PLEDGE

Dear Fellow

The Pledge that new candidates take when being inducted unto the College is very important, and while the message may vary somewhat from Section to Section, it is basically the same. I believe the Pledge is necessary for anyone worthy of becoming a Fellow in the International College of Dentists, but I recommend that an additional line be added to every Section's Pledge. That being, "I pledge to be vigilante and sponsor worthy dentists for Fellowship in the International College of Dentists whenever I have the opportunity." Why is this important?

The primary reason is that there are too many worthy candidates who are overlooked.

There are hundreds of thousands of dentists around the world, and surely more than approximately 12,000 are worthy of this high honor. That percentage would be infinitesimal. Someone took the time to sponsor us, and we must do the same for others. I have attended many convocations, and I am in awe at how many older, well-known dentists are just coming into the College. Many are deans of dental schools, well-known academicians or researchers, and authors of textbooks; yet they enter the College at an older age. Fortunately, this group was not totally overlooked, but I feel for the others out there who are worthy but never get noticed.

The invitation process is a simple one.

In most Sections, it is required that only a letter of recommendation and perhaps a supporting letter be sent to the appropriate person in that Section and that person will move the process forward. We must all realize that worthy candidates cannot apply themselves, we must take the initiative, single them out and invite them for Fellowship. I mentioned in a previous message that we are all part of a chain, and new Fellows in every Section are essential in keeping our chain strong.

Another important reason is the business side of the College.

We must keep in mind that there are a large number of Fellows each year taking life or retired status, and some are resigning. We must bring in a substantial number each year to compensate for this loss and to continue to grow. The College has expenses and a very tight budget, which means an adequate number of induction and capitation fees are essential if we are to continue to grow and do the good things we do around the world.

Some Fellows may not have the opportunity or the desire to be in a leadership position, but every Fellow is important, not only because of their capitation fees, but for what they can add to all of the noble things the College is involved with around the world. We are making much progress in adding new Sections and Regions, but we must remember that it is equally important that we grow our existing Sections and Regions, as well.

The idea of adding this additional line to the Pledge has been on my mind for a number of years, and I hope that everyone will give it their consideration so that in time, we will see it added to every Section's Pledge. More importantly, I hope that those taking the Pledge will act on what they have signed.

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President
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