THE DIPLOMATE

American Board of Endodontics Newsletter

Editor: Samuel O.Dorn **Volume 9, Number 2** **October 1995**

ABE 1995-96

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REACTIVE TO PROACTIVE

by
A. Eddy Skidmore, D.D.S.
President

As I look back on my six years as a Director of the American Board of Endodontics, I am most impressed by the huge amount of work that the Board has accomplished in a relatively short period of time. I began my Directorship during one of its darkest moments: we were in the midst of a lawsuit that was emotionally scarring and morally devastating for all who were involved. Because there was no good way to resolve the issue, we were forced to turn to the Diplomates for quick and immediate financial help, and the Diplomates came through - strongly and graciously. Your response allowed us to begin the process of growth and healing that continues to this day.

During my tenure, because of the lawsuit and the restrictions placed on our work by our legal advisors, I have seen the Board go from being reactive to proactive. Due to the hard work of past Directors Zelikow, Osetek, Bernier, Hicks, Marshall, Rossman, Ellison, and Bakland, the entire examination process has been analyzed and reevaluated. Committees were formed, consultants were hired, and work was begun to utilize the latest tools and techniques to bring the certification process up to current national standards.

It is my personal belief that one of the most important things that a Diplomate can ever do is to mentor a future Diplomate, and for that reason, I would like you to know about some of the changes that have been made. In general, both the written and oral examinations have become more standardized through the application of the scientific principles of test

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Three New Directors Join the ABE

During the Annual Session of the AAE in May, Drs. Jeffrey Hutter and Marshall Peikoff were each elected to a three year term of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Endodontics. They are replacing outgoing Directors Leif Bakland and Louis Rossman who each completed their second three year term and have each served as president of the ABE. In addition, in June Dr. Charles Cunningham was appointed to fill in the unexpired term of Dr. Ralph Bellizzi who had to resign due to health reasons.

Jeffrey W. Hutter, D.M.D. is a Captain in the United States Navy Dental Corps and currently chairs the Endodontic Department at the Naval Dental School in Bethesda, MD, a position he has held since 1993. He is also director of the Advanced Specialty Education Program in Endodontics there. His other current teaching positions include adjunct assistant professor of endodontics at the University of Pennsylvania and Adjunct Professor, School of Medicine and Health Sciences at George Washington University. Dr. Hutter graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 1975 and received his Certificate in Endodontics from the Naval Dental School in 1982.

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construction. The purpose of the written exam has been clearly differentiated from that of the oral exam: The written exam tests didactic ability and the oral exam tests for application of concepts to the clinical setting. Under the past direction of Leif Bakland and Ralph Bellizzi, the Directors learned how to construct and evaluate written questions. A data bank of written questions has been established by Bill Johnson, who now heads this committee and would welcome your input. Please send any suggestions for questions that you might have to his attention.

The oral examination process has perhaps changed the most. Lamar Hicks and Sandra Madison pioneered the new format for the oral exam. An oral question is acceptable only when the answer does not lend itself to the written format. Candidates are asked to tap their knowledge and experience to answer questions that could affect the clinical outcome of treatment. The exam is now longer and more standardized. It is monitored and recorded in an attempt to provide the highest level of objectivity that is possible. Under the current direction of Hal Goodis, Directors are trained in examination techniques and question construction.

The saddest part of our meeting at the Annual Session of the AAE.....

The case history evaluation process assures that the candidate remains completely anonymous and that the Directors are unaware of any other evaluation. For the past four years, Directors have attended workshops to help standardize the evaluation of case histories. The Board has conducted several Limited Attendance Seminars at the Annual Sessions on case history preparation. Every effort is made to acquaint the candidate with the criteria necessary for an acceptable case history presentation. Drs. Zelikow, Rossman, Goodis, and Madison have all influenced the progress made in this area.

In addition to work on the examinations, the Board has implemented several new programs and policies in recent years. The Fair Procedure Policy is in effect. There is a written procedure that a candidate can follow to appeal the decision of the ABE. To encourage candidates to become certified and acquaint them with the process, Directors have made themselves available to the graduate programs throughout the US and Canada. This Outreach Program has been a huge success. Many alumni groups have helped defray travel costs and have combined this seminar with a seminar related to the Director's expertise. It is an excellent way for Diplomates to mentor new candidates.

Recertification and the College of Diplomates are two areas that are currently on the planning table. We are excited about the possibilities for continuing education and renewal that these concepts offer. More information will be available after our November meeting.

The saddest part of our meeting at the Annual Session of the AAE is the realization that someone's term as a Director will expire. For most of us, to be a Director is the highest honor and accomplishment of our careers. This May in Orlando, Lou Rossman and Leif Bakland finished their terms. Both were outstanding Directors and Presidents. "Life" and "Luigi", as they were affectionately nicknamed, will be missed. In early June, Ralph Bellizzi resigned. His health had not permitted him to be with us in Orlando. His contribution will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his new post-military career and a speedy recovery. Elected to the ABE in Orlando were Drs. Jeff Hutter and Marshall Peikoff. Both have excellent credentials and will be of great service as the work of the Board continues. Chuck Cunningham was appointed in July to fill Dr. Bellizzi's unexpired term. He was enthusiastically endorsed by both the Directors of the ABE and the AAE. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of his stature and ability willing to serve immediately. The present Board is comprised of some of the most talented and intellectually capable Diplomates ever to serve our profession, and I am honored to lead them.

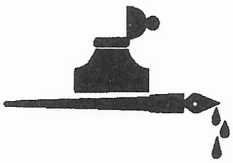
Please keep in touch with us. We welcome your thoughts and ideas as well as your questions and concerns. We count on you to be the leaders in our profession and to inspire others to follow in your footsteps. The perception of endodontics as a dental specialty is directly influenced by the percentage of endodontists who are certified. So, if you know someone who is not certified, get in touch with them. Offer your help. Nag them a little bit! Imagine the difference your caring and encouragement could make.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Future Examination Schedule

	1995	
Written Examination	November 16	Chicago, IL
Oral Examination	November 17-18	Chicago, IL
	1996	
Oral Examination	April 23-24	Dallas, TX
Written Examination	November 7	Chicago, IL
Oral Examination	November 8-9	Chicago, IL
	1997	
Oral Examination	May 6-7	Seattle, WA
Written Examination	November 6	Chicago, IL
Oral Examination	November 7-8	Chicago, IL
	1998	
Oral Examination	May 5-6	New York, N

Secretary's Report



The American Board of Endodontics held its Spring Meeting in conjunction with the American Association of Endodontists Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, May 6-10, 1995. In addition to the Business Meeting, the Board conducted a workshop on Case Histories Portfolio Evaluation and Standardization and administered the Oral Examination.

Seventeen (17) candidates took the Oral Examination and all were successful - 100%! The Directors of the ABE were delighted with the results and wish to officially congratulate the newest Diplomates. Thus far in 1995, twenty-one (21) case history portfolios have been reviewed. Seventeen (17) were found acceptable, while four (4) were found unacceptable. Of the four candidates with unacceptable portfolios, two (2) may resubmit their revised portfolios and two (2) must reestablish board eligibility due to time restrictions.

The Credentials Committee reviewed three (3) preliminary applications and thirty-nine (39) final applications Compared to April, 1994, there were zero (0) preliminary applications and seventeen (17) final applications. All applications were approved.

In an attempt to inform endodontic advanced education students about board certification, Directors of the ABE have visited thirty (30) programs during the past three years. This outreach program was designed to educate residents about board certification, provide current information about the examinations and hopefully "de-mystify" the entire process. Advanced education program directors: please contact Ms. Susan Burkhardt, ABE Administrative Secretary or Dr. Ed Skidmore if you would like more information about this program.

The Written Examination Committee in consultation with the ADA Department of Testing Services continues its efforts to upgrade the quality of the written examination. Drs. William T. Johnson, Harold E. Goodis, Jeffrey W. Hutter and Edward M. Osetek met in Chicago in July with the consultants to finalize the fall examination. The Directors of the ABE approved recertification for Diplomates at the Spring Meeting. The Board will begin issuing ten year time limited certificates to those candidates entering the board certification process as of January 1, 1997. Please note: mandatory recertification does not apply to Diplomates or Candidates currently in the certification process.

The Directors formalized the certification process into a three part examination with specified time periods for each part, to become effective January 1997. After approval of the Preliminary Application, the Candidate has three (3) years to pass the Written Examination, one (1) year to make and have approved the Final Application, three (3) years for case history portfolio approval and two (2) years to pass the Oral Examination. The maximum time for completing the process remains at nine (9) years.

The following officers for 1995-96 were installed during the Spring Meeting:

New Officers

President:
Dr. A. Eddy Skidmore
Secretary:
Dr. Sandra Madison
Treasurer :
Dr. Samuel O. Dorn

New Directors selected during the AAE Annual Business Meeting were Drs. Jeffrey W. Hutter and Marshall D. Peikoff. Drs. Louis E. Rossman and Leif K. Bakland, after serving six and seven years respectively, ended their tenure as directors. They served the ABE tirelessly and well, and will be missed by all. It saddens me to report that Dr. Ralph Bellizzi resigned from the ABE in June leaving one year in his term. The President of the ABE, with the approval of the ABE and AAE Officers and Directors, appointed Dr. Charles J. Cunningham to complete this term.

A meeting for all Diplomates was held during the AAE Annual Session. During the meeting the certification process was reviewed, recertification for Diplomates discussed and the formation of a mentoring group of Diplomates to assist those endodontists seeking board certification was presented. Under the leadership of Drs. Stuart Fountain and Lamar Hicks a network to help our colleagues become Diplomates will hopefully be established.

The ABE also presented a LAS on Case History Portfolio preparation in Orlando. In a room filled to capacity, Dr. Harold Goodis reviewed portfolio preparation and fielded questions.

The Directors of the ABE will hold the Fall Meeting in Chicago in November. During this meeting the Written and Oral Examinations will be given. If you as Diplomates have any items or concerns you would like the Board to discuss, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Feedback from you is always welcome.

Sandra Madison, D.D.S., M.S.
Secretary

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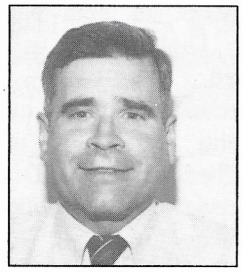
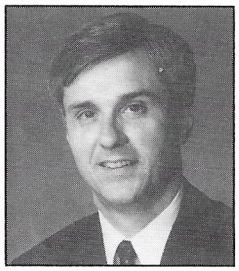
Profiles on New Diplomates

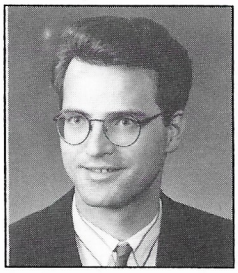
The endodontists who were awarded diplomate status in Orlando in May are alphabetically listed as follows:



Michael Kenneth Baisden is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and is presently the Officer-In-charge of Troop Medical Clinic Dental Clinic and Chief of Endodontics at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. Previously, he was the Chief of Endodontics and the endodontic mentor for the advanced education program in General Dentistry at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Michael received his Endodontic Certificate from Fort Gordon, GA in 1991 after having received his DDS from Marquette University in 1979 and his BS from St. Norbert College in 1974. He enjoys hunting, fishing, basketball, and baseball. Michael and his wife, Ellie, have two children: Stephen (9) and Katherine (6).

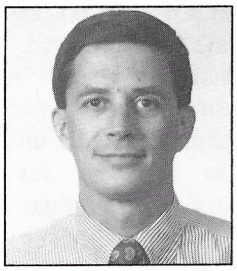


Richard Allen Beavers is a private practitioner in Greensboro, NC. He also instructs pre-doctoral students as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Endodontics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received his DDS degree in 1979. Richard received his MS in Endodontics from the University of Michigan in 1982, and his BA from Wake Forest U. in 1967. He and his wife, Sharon, have three daughters: Debran Margaret (23), Kristen Marie (11) and Erin Lindsay (9). In his spare time Richard enjoys fishing, camping, tennis, golf and doing volunteer dentistry for the local indigent population .

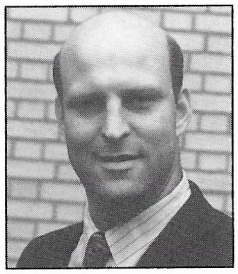


Charles W. Clarke is in private practice with his wife, Dr. Susan Adams, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He received his Certificate in Endodontics from Oregon University in 1989 after having received a DDS from the University of Toronto in 1985. In his spare time, Charles likes flying, reading, dogs, theater and gardening. He and his wife have three children, Tara (9), Brooke (6), and Boomer who is 10.

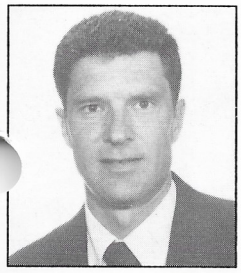
Steven Corliss is in private practice in Boston, Massachusetts. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine where he earned his Certificate in Endodontics in 1990 and his DMD degree in 1988. His BA was received from Boston college in 1984. Steve and his wife, Kelly, reside in Ashland, Mass. and enjoy travel, sports and jazz.



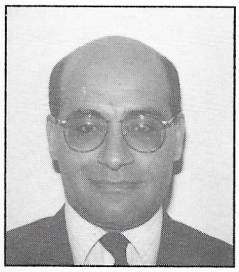
Cary J. Cunningham received his Certificate in Endodontics from the Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center in 1992. His DDS and BA degrees were earned at the University of Colorado in 1981 and 1976, respectively. He was the Assistant Chairman of the Dept. of Endodontics at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi and, by the time this is published, should be in Ramstein, Germany serving a. Chairman of the Dept. of Endodontics at the USAFE Command Consultant in Endodontics. Cary and his wife, Susan, a dental hygienist, have two children: Matthew (10) and Jenna (8). Now that studying for the boards if over, Cary writes that "we are concentrating on personal fitness, some woodworking, computers, a little investing, but mostly quality time with my terrific family doing some boating, camping and fishing."



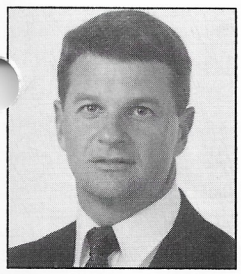
Michael Jay Feldman is in private practice in Hewlett, New York and is a second generation Diplomate of the ABE. He is the Director of Endodontics at Nassau County Medical Center where he received his Endodontic Certificate in 1991, and is an Endodontic Attending in the Department of Dentistry at Peninsula Hospital. Before doing his endodontic residency at NCMC, he received his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and BA from SUNY at Albany in 1985. Michael and his wife, Robin, have a two year old daughter, Lauren, and reside in Lawrence, NY. In his spare time he enjoys tennis, swimming and guitar playing.



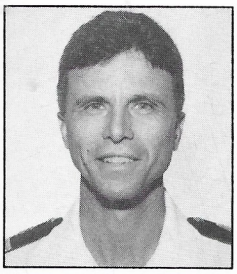
Keith H. Foster is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and is currently Chief of Endodontics at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he also serves as Mentor of Endodontics in the Advanced education program in General Dentistry. Keith received both his BS (1977) and DMD (1980) from the University of Kentucky. After receiving his Certificate in Endodontics from the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon in 1991, he was assigned as the Chief of Endodontics in Panama until 1994. To keep in shape, Keith enjoys hiking and running. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Clarksville, Tennessee and have three children: David (17), Beth (15) and Jim (12).



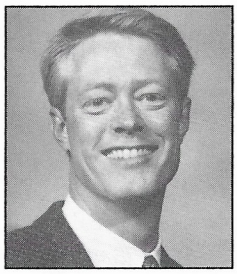
Ashraf F. Fouad is an Assistant Professor of Endodontology and the Director of Undergraduate Endodontics at the University of Connecticut Health Center. He received a BDS from the University of Cairo, Egypt in 1982 and then earned his Certificate in Endodontics and MS at the University of Iowa in 1990 and his DDS in 1992. He and his wife, Cheryl, have two boys, Anthony (4) and Edward (1). In his spare time, besides jogging, chess and sailing. Ashraf likes to create interactive computer simulations for teaching endodontic diagnosis and treatment.



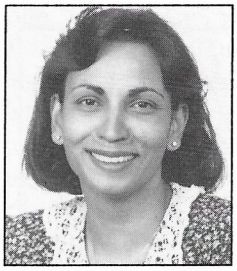
Stephen B. Haas is a Commander in the United States Navy currently serving at Parris Island in South Carolina. He was previously Head of the Endodontics Department and Assistant Officer in Charge at the Branch Dental Clinic, in Rota, Spain. Stephen graduated from West VA University with a DDS degree in 1980 and received his Certificate in Endodontics from the Naval Dental School in 1988. He and his wife, Susan, have two children: Christy (18) and Andrew (15). To relax, Stephen enjoys golf, tennis, sailing, running and playing the guitar.



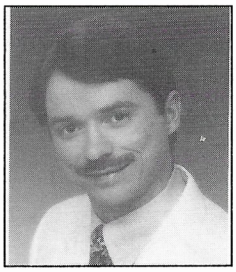
Kenneth R. Hunter is a Commander serving as the endodontist at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. After receiving his Gator BS from the University of Florida in 1973, Rick joined the Navy and was a Flight Officer flying F-4 Phantoms until 1980. He started his dental career by earning a DDS from the Medical College of VA in 1984 and then received his Certificate in Endodontics from the Naval Dental School in Bethesda, MD in 1990. Besides playing tennis for relaxation, Rick enjoys family activities and outings with his wife, Lisa, and their four children, Bethany (14), Sean (10, Caitlin (9) and Tatum (3).



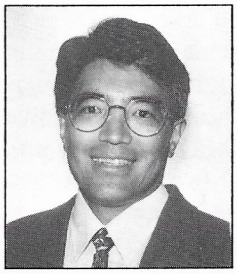
James G. Kotapish, Jr. received his M.S. in Endodontics in 1992 from West Virginia University after having earned his DDS from Ohio State University in 1981 and his BS from Florida Southern College in 1978. Jim is a solo practitioner in Akron, Ohio where he and his wife, Susan, reside with their two children, Kate (7) and Matthew (4). Besides enjoying golf and tennis, being near Cleveland, Jim states that he is "presently enjoying this long awaited 'Indians' summer."



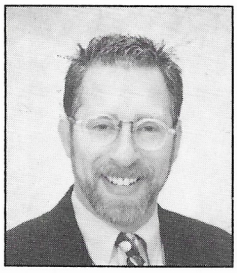
Sudha P. Patil has been in private practice in McLean, Virginia since receiving her MS and Endodontic Certificate from the University of Maryland in 1989. Her DDS degree was obtained from Georgetown University in 1987 and BS from George Mason University in 1983. Sudha and her husband, Pandit, have two children: a son, Susheel, and a daughter, Prema (17). In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, travel and tennis.



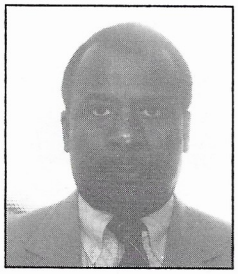
Ernest S. Reeh practices part time in Stillwater, Minnesota and volunteers research time at the University of Minnesota Biomaterials Research Center. After having received his BSc in 1984 and his DDS in 1986 from the University of Alberta, he earned his Certificate in Endodontics and MS in 1988 and Ph.D. in BioPhysics in 1993 from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Mary Ann Bunczak-Reeh (also an endodontist), live in Stillwater where Ernest finds spare time to enjoy gourmet cooking, classic car restoration, radio controlled models and wood working.



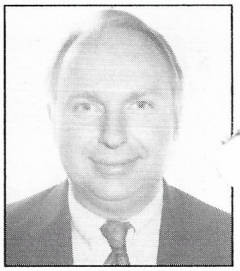
Bradley G. Seto practices in an endodontic group in Santa Monica, California and spends time at the UCLA School of Dentistry as an Assistant Research Dentist. He attended the University of California, Davis until 1974 when he went to Emory University to earn his DDS degree in 1978. In 1989, Brad received his MSD and Certificate in Endodontics from the University of Washington. He and his wife, Maria, have three children, Brandon (14), Emily (12) and Kevin (9) who keep him busy coaching youth baseball, basketball, softball and soccer.



Burton M. Waxman is in solo private practice in Ellicot City, Maryland where he resides with his wife, Debbie, and their bearded collie dog, Wescott. After receiving a BA from Clark University in 1973, Burt went on to receive a DDS in 1978 and a Certificate in Endodontics in 1988 from the University of Maryland, where he is still an Assistant Clinical Professor. In his spare time Burt serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Maryland State Association of Endodontists, and enjoys jogging, bicycling, golf, travel and collecting antiques.

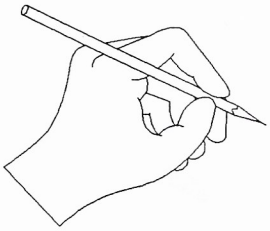


Eugene West is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army serving as an endodontist in Wurzburg, Germany. He received his MS and Certificate in Endodontics from the U.S. Army in 1992. Eugene received a BS from Tennessee State University in 1968 and a DDS from the University of Illinois in 1978. He and his wife, Susan, have an 11 year old son, Brian. When not working, Eugene enjoys photography and antique collecting.



Dennis J. Wourms is now in private practice in Palm Springs, California after having served in the United States Navy where he received his Certificate in Endodontics in 1989. Dennis received his DDS from the University of Southern California in 1981 and his BA from CSU at San Bernardino in 1977. His wife, Suzanne, shares his hobbies of ping-pong, cycling, movies and searching for the finest chocolate in the world. Dennis writes that he hopes to eventually "teach, do reasearch and write several books.

Congratulations to these 17 new Diplomates!



Dear Editor

Upon completing the written and portfolio sections of the Board exam, I was certainly anxious about taking the orals. I was apprehensive in regard to the type of questions that would be asked and which examiners would prove most difficult. In actuality, the examiners went out of their way to encourage me to respond appropriately in their questions. The questions themselves were diverse yet fair. The true challenge was finding the time to study prior to the exam!

Preparing for the oral exam raised my awareness of the whys and hows of everyday Endodontic practice. The process which began as stressful and a bit frightening turned out to be educational and enriching.....

Michael J. Feldman, D.M.D.
Hewlett, NY

Dear Editor . . . . .

A common refrain of many endodontists is that board certification has no appreciable value except for those practitioners in the military or in academia. After successfully completing the requirements for Diplomate status, I can definitely say that the preparation of my case history portfolio and the thorough review of materials for the oral examination has made me a more complete clinician and diagnostician. The strength of this specialty lies in the vast scientific research that forms the rationale for the services that endodontists provide to their patients. The certification process helped me to solidify my understanding of the biological principles that form the basis of endodontics.

I owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals who stressed the importance of attaining Diplomate status while I was still in my endodontic residency.

I hope that more endodontists or endodontic residents, who have not begun the certification process, will someday be able to recognize the fulfillment of becoming a Diplomate.

Burton M. Waxman, D.D.S.
Ellicott City, MD.

Diplomate Lapel Pins Available

New Diplomates will receive their lapel pins at the annual Louis I. Grossman Memorial Luncheon. All other Diplomates may purchase these beautiful double gold-filled pins from the ABE Headquarters Office for the affordable price of $30, which includes postage and handling. Current and past Directors of the ABE have the opportunity to purchase the flagged version, which specifies Director, for only $40.

New Directors in ABE. . .
(continued from page 1)

He is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, and president-elect of the Edward C. Penick Endodontic Study Club.

Marshall D. Peikoff, D.D.S., MscD graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1963 and received his Masters of Science and Certificate in Endodontics in 1969 from Boston University. He is an Associate Professor and former head of the Section of Endodontics at the University of Manitoba, in addition to maintaining a private practice. Dr. Peikoff is a former president of the AAE Research and Education Foundation, the Canadian Academy of Endodontists and the Manitoba Dental Association. He is a Fellow of both the International and American College of Dentists, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists (Canada). Charles J. Cunningham, D.D.S. is currently the Director of Graduate Endodontics at the University of Florida School of Dentistry and is a Consultant to the United States Navy Dental Corps. Dr. Cunningham graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry in 1957 and received his Certificate in Endodontics from the Naval Dental School in 1965. He is a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a Fellow of both the International and American College of Dentists and a former president of the American Association of Endodontists.

Directors of the ABE at the Orlando meeting in May are (L to R) Samuel Dorn, Treasurer; Harold Goodis; Louis Rossman, Immediate Past President; Sandra Madison, Secretary; Marshal Peikoff; Jeffrey Hutter; William Johnson; Eddy Skidmore, President; Leif Bakland;

American Board of Endodontics Treasurer's Report
July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995

INCOME	
Announcements-Income	2,015
Brochures - Income	1,064
Checking Interest	833
Diplomate Pins	320
Final Application	36,850
Luncheon Fees	5,320
Maintenance Fees	18,150
Miscellaneous Income	1,168
Preliminary Application	21,250
Re-Exam Fee (Cases)	2,000
Re-Exam Fee (Written)	1,000
Registration	52,125
Savings Interest	1,355
Total Income	**$143,700**

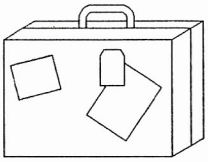
EXPENSES	
Announcements	1,273
Audit/Tax Prep/File Fees	2,730
Bank Service Charges	905
Brochures	910
Case Histories	2,933
Central Office Cost	59,555

EXPENSES (Continued)	
Clerical Support	2,579
Database Services	5,315
Diplomate/Director Pins	1,377
Director Training & Ed	235
Directors Meeting	147
Insurance/Fidelity Bond	1,617
Legal	2,585
Meeting Expenses	11,828
Miscellaneous	1,940
Newsletter	3,203
Oral Exam	129
Per Diem	19,810
Postage	7,390
Roster	800
Service Contracts	620
Supply General	2,016
Supply Print/Duplication	1,456
Telephone	3,349
Telephone/FAX	373
Travel	7,323
Written Exam	4,947
Total Expense	**$147,787**

This is a report of the income and expenses for the latest fiscal year. A full auditor's report is on file for your review upon request.

Samuel O. Dorn, D.D.S., Treasurer

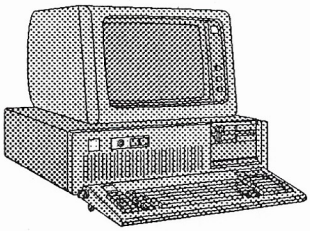
Are You Moving?



If you have a change of address, please contact Ms. Susan Burkhardt, the Administrative Secretary for the ABE, in addition to contacting the AAE. Since the ABE now has its own computer database, we must change information separately.

Patient Brochure Available

Patient brochures describing the process and advantages of Board Certification are available to distribute to your patients. They can be ordered in lots of 100 to 2,000 with or without your name imprinted on them. You can get a free sample and information about costs by calling Ms. Susan Burkhardt, Administrative Secretary, at the Headquarters office.



Case History Form Available on Computer

The forms for the case history portfolio are now available on computer disk. The format needed is an IBM compatible computer with WordPerfect 5.1 or higher. For more information and a copy of the disk, on either 3.5" or 5.25" floppy disk, contact Ms. Susan Burkhardt at the Headquarters office.

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