

E N D O D O N T I C S  
N O R T H W E S T

February 17, 1993

Dr. Michael A. Heuer, Historian  
American Association of Endodontists  
211 E. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2691

Dear Mike:

Organized endodontics began in Washington state in 1969 as a result of the efforts of Dr. James McGraw. The first organization was called Seattle Endodontic Seminars and was formed to "discuss subjects of common interest and concern". In addition to Dr. McGraw, founding members included; Drs. Jack Bell, F. Chester Burrell, M. Cameron Crump, Henry Harbert, Gerald Harrington, Eugene Natkin, Thomas Simpson, Ron Slowey, Joseph Spinola, Milan Starks, James Steiner, Hank Van Hassel, and Bernard Zeldow. The membership was composed of both endodontists and general practitioners.

In Fall of 1970 the name was changed to Northwest Academy of Endodontists (NWAE). In addition to the original members from Washington State, Endodontists from Oregon and British Columbia were allowed to join. During the 1970s the NWAE in conjunction with the Northern California Academy of Endodontists and the Southern California Academy of Endodontists formed the Pacific Coast Conference of Endodontists. It was at this time that the A.A.E. was made aware of our state organization via a letter to Dr. Leonard Evanson, Chairman, A.A.E. Study Club, dated November 1970.

In March 1978 the name was changed to Washington State Association of Endodontists (WSAE). One of the consequences of the change was that nonendodontists were not allowed as members. The original officers of WSAE were Dr. Leland Hoepfinger: President, Dr. Blake McKinley: President-Elect, Dr. David Steiner: Secretary, and Dr. Matt Mandel: Treasurer.

I hope this information will be helpful. Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely



Charles Backman, DDS, MSD  
President; Washington State Association of Endodontists