

# NEWS

## Message From Our Distinguished Past-President Dr. Samuel S Patterson, 1968-69

Through April 1992, the *Journal of Endodontics* will print a message from a Past President of the American Association of Endodontists alternately with those of our current President, Dr. Joseph I. Tenca. This new feature of the *Journal* is intended to give members insight to the history and movement of the AAE and endodontics as a specialty as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the organization.



I have always thought of myself as a second generation endodontist. My predecessors, Maynard K. Hine, J. Henry Kaiser, Paul P. Sherwood and Vincent B. Milas and the other founders of the AAE were the early pioneers of endodontics. Each name above had a profound effect on my professional career.

My year as president was from 1968-1969 and I and most of the other 959 members were also from the second generation. We had just celebrated our silver anniversary with the presidency of Edwin C. Van Valey when I took the reins. This started our second twenty-five years that will lead to a golden anniversary celebration.

Our problems in 1968 were not too dissimilar to those of today; however, we constantly kept in mind the future and were a model to some of the other seven specialty organizations of dentistry.

Louis I. Grossman, who was chairman of the American Board of Endodontics, discussed the charge to the Board by the ADA Council of Dental Education to "prepare guidelines for the graduate courses, and establish minimum standards of clinical experience necessary for certification."

Some of the business matters the organization dealt with were stepping stones to our present strong society. We approved forms for filing case histories as a means of providing applicants with a uniform system. I appointed an ad hoc committee for investigating the feasibility of employing an executive secretary and establishing a central office.

Vincent B. Milas received a commendation for the tremendous task of compiling and publishing the material for the history of the first 25 years of the AAE.

In 1968 James W. Bynum was the program chairman for the annual meeting which was held in Chicago at the Congress Hotel. Harold Gerstein was local arrangements chairman and he enlisted the Coolidge Endodontic Study Club to help with the conduct and arrangements for the 26th Annual Meeting. This was the first time a study club assumed this responsibility. The Coolidge Luncheon award was instituted at this meeting and still occupies an important part of our present day annual sessions.

A Glossary of Endodontic Terminology was compiled by Charles G. Maurice and copies were sent to members and

each scientific library and insurance carrier approved by the ADA. For the first time we were all able to communicate with commonly accepted language.

The organization had grown to 960 members and it was now decided the time had come to hire an accounting or auditing firm to examine the records and propose a more modern accounting system.

We dealt with updating the Endowment and Memorial Foundation, which had been a brainchild of Jacob B. Freedland.

Consideration was given to establishing a registry of pulp and periapical pathosis.

The AAE was more like a fraternity with several female members. We were small enough to know each other rather intimately. If called upon to serve or informally investigate some pertinent problem, I cannot recall that I ever had a refusal. For the last 48 years, the AAE has inspired and brought out the best in its members for the advancement of endodontics, and dentistry has gained a great deal by our leadership.

Samuel S Patterson, DDS, MSD  
Past President

*Dr. Patterson retired four years ago as Professor Emeritus from Indiana University, where he was chairman of the Department of Endodontics. He works three days a week in the office of his son Steven, who is also an endodontist, and contributes one-half day per week to the residency program he helped establish at the Richard Rosebush Veterans' Administration Hospital in Indianapolis. Dr. Patterson received the Edgar D. Coolidge Award from the AAE in 1989 and in 1990 was awarded the Maynard K. Hine Award by the Indiana Dental Association. Dr. Patterson says that he and his wife Eunice still enjoy the AAE annual meetings. At home, he says they still exhibit great patience regarding the Indianapolis Colts and Pacers and take great interest in winners too, such as Bobby Knight and the Indiana Hoosiers basketball team. Dr. Patterson concludes saying, "Dentistry and especially endodontics has been very stimulating and kind to me. If I had to repeat the last 74 years, I do not think I would change too many things in which I have been fortunate to be involved."*