

Historical Perspective

Through April, 1993, the *Journal of Endodontics* will continue to feature addresses and/or profiles of all 49 AAE past presidents. Begun in 1991, this feature is intended to give members insight into the history and movement of the AAE and endodontics as a specialty, as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the AAE.



Stephen F. Schwartz, DDS, MS
Past President, 1984-85

A somber twist of fate preceded my term as president. Warren Wakai was to become the president-elect at the 1982 Annual Session and his death was a personal loss to all of us who knew him. In an unprecedented action, the Board of Directors acting as nominating committee selected Don Arens and myself as president-elect and vice president, respectively. In the short span of an executive session, I was put in line to become the youngest president in the history of the AAE. One of the most memorable events of my year as president was to receive the Warren T. Wakai Medallion honoring a man who, although never serving his term as president, occupies a permanent place in the history of the AAE.

The year started on a dead run, trying to put the finishing touches on so many of the projects created out of the energy of the previous administrations. Some felt that it was a bit strange that the current and immediate past two presidents were also best of friends, but any concerns over a "good old boy" network were quickly put to rest by a flurry of activity that brought about major changes in the face of our organization. The concept of "grass roots representation" was put into place with the development of guidelines for the formation of state affiliates which would later be divided into districts and ultimately provide regional representation to the Board of Directors. We were also responding to our commitment to being a collective voice of the endodontists by implementing a public awareness campaign. Ninety-two percent of respondents to a survey supported the concept of informing the public as to the value of endodontic care and the role of the endodontist in its delivery. I did spend a few weeks responding to letters from the other eight percent about the assessment. This program has been modified and is currently being redirected, but there is no question that it has served the specialty well. Its intention has and continues to be aggressive enough to capture the attention of the general public but sensitive enough not to unduly infringe on the prerogatives of the general dentist.

The year also witnessed the birth of the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) with the ratification of its constitution in San Diego. The AAE acted as an organizational clearinghouse and lent to IFEA the manpower of the International Relations Committee and the Central Office staff. In seven years IFEA has grown to a membership of over 15 member countries and has produced two world class conferences. Also in 1984 was the International Conference on Oral Trauma, sponsored jointly by the AAE

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Michael A. Heuer, DDS, MS
Past President, 1986-87

For me the year of my presidency was anticlimactic in that it was the culmination of eight years of service as the AAE Secretary (1979-84), Vice President and President-Elect. For the AAE, this eight year period (1979-87) was one in which rapid and profound organizational changes, which provide the basis for today's Association, were enacted.

In the winter of 1978, I was approached by members of the Association from several areas of the country to stand for election as secretary of the AAE. I accepted this invitation, was nominated by membership petition for the office and was elected secretary by the General Assembly in Atlanta in 1979. At that time the AAE was in a period of transition, having reviewed the resignation of Elly Baker, its executive secretary, and having made the decision to relocate its Central Office to Chicago to be in closer proximity to the ADA.

Concurrent with my election as secretary, the AAE hired Irma Kudo, assistant director for annual sessions of the ADA, as executive director of the AAE. We retained the legal firm of Jenner and Block, following the resignation of Harvey Sarner as legal counsel, and finalized plans for the relocation of the Central Office to Chicago in 1980. Following the move to Chicago and a legal audit of the Association's affairs and contracts by Jenner and Block, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association were rewritten for adoption by the General Assembly. Also, the practice of having an interim meeting of the Executive Committee at the Central Office in February and August to conduct Association business between the October and April meetings of the Board of Directors was initiated. The result of these operational changes was a

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programs, both pre and post-doctoral. They need our expertise, our time and our dollars. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the educators to use contributed time and dollars wisely, to welcome such contributions and to frequently express appreciation for them.

Working together we can make a difference, and we can gradually alter the future course of endodontic education. The future of our specialty depends on it.

Stuart B. Fountain, DDS, MSc (Dent)
President

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and the E&M Foundation. General dentists, pedodontists, periodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons and endodontists from around the world participated in this highly successful event. The 1984 ADA House of Delegates passed a resolution calling for recertification of all specialties. Although our turn was a few years away, we developed a comprehensive membership survey that provided much of the information on which we based our successful certification and long range planning. The final chapter on recertification has not been written, and we must be constantly vigilant that the destiny of our specialty remains in our hands.

This was also a year full of very personal memories--some sad and others exhilarating. The loss of Myron Chubin, the general chairman of the 1984 Annual Session. The loss of Irv Naidorf, the editor of the JOE and a truly inspirational teacher, administrator and friend. Irv taught many of us how to be serious and never to forget the importance of humor. One of the last events Irv and I shared together was possibly the greatest honor I had as president. I represented the AAE at the dedication of the Louis I. Grossman Professorship in Endodontics at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Grossman had encouraged me early in my career, and to have the chance to pay him a richly deserved tribute on behalf of the AAE was, for a cowboy from Texas, a truly lasting memory.

The final thought as I recall that wonderful year is the combination of working with a membership that has always been committed to the best interests of the organization irrespective of their own special interests and a professional staff so ably led by Irma Kudo. A staff that has helped make all of us look good. They are our day-to-day ambassadors to the public and the profession. Their day seems to be determined by the work load rather than the time clock.

I am pleased to have been given one more opportunity to thank you for the honor of being a past president of this very special Association and would like to close with the last words of my final president's message: "When you are surrounded by people committed to success, it's difficult to contemplate anything else."

Since his term as AAE president, Dr. Schwartz has served as IFEA president and as general chairman of the last two IFEA World Congresses. Dr. Schwartz maintains a private practice in Houston, Texas and is also Associate Professor of Endodontics at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He spends his free time at his Texas ranch "playing cowboy."

Attention study clubs, alumni and military groups!

If you are planning a breakfast meeting or evening function at the Hyatt Regency Chicago during the 1993 Annual Session, please contact Letty Catrambone at the Headquarters Office with two preferred dates on which you'd like your function to be held.

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significantly more pro-active role for the Association officers collectively in conducting the affairs of the Association. Relocation of the Association's Central Office to the ADA building added emphasis to the movement to change the focus of AAE deliberations from concentration on the Annual Session and scientific matters to concentration on continuous participation as a special interest group in the affairs of organized dentistry on a national level. This shift of attention was subtle and slow in developing, but profound in that it changed the basic character of the Association and brought it into full partnership with other recognized national specialty organizations in addressing matters of concern to its members. Three AAE presidents, Paul Zeigler (1979-80), Edward Osetek (1980-1981) and Henry Van Hassel (1981-82) played major roles in laying the foundations for what was to come.

The year 1982 was a year of political crisis in the AAE. Warren Wakai, nominee for the office of president-elect, died an untimely death shortly before the convening of the annual session in April. The Board of Directors, acting in executive session as a special nominating committee, selected Donald Arens as successor and the General Assembly elected him to office. This unforeseen event set in motion a chain of events unprecedented in the Association's history.

The ADA had initiated a project to develop a report on the Future of Dentistry the previous year, and the AAE held a workshop conference consisting of its leadership, both past and present, to address the issues raised in this forthcoming report. This workshop in turn stimulated the AAE to develop a long range plan for itself as an Association in concert with its response to ADA requests for input on proposed changes in its policies on the recognition of special areas of dental practice, requirements for advanced dental education and the Future of Dentistry report. The initiatives proposed and planning decisions reached by participants in these workshops were subsequently adopted by the AAE Board of Directors and set the agenda for the Association for the next five years.

These were exciting and challenging times. A succession of AAE presidents, Noah Chivian (1982-83), Donald Arens (1983-84), Stephen Schwartz (1984-85), Herbert Schilder (1985-86) and myself were active participants in those workshop conferences and in the development of the long-range plan for the Association. We were individually and collectively dedicated to carrying out its objectives over the next five years. I have many memories of the meetings and discussions leading up to the strategic plan, as well as the implementation of it step-by-step through actions taken by the Board of Directors and/or General Assembly during this period of time. Few organizations have been so fortunate in having a continuity of purpose in their leadership during such a period of transition.

In 1984-85 the AAE Bylaws were changed to require that all future active members be in the limited practice of endodontics. The following year the General Assembly adopted the plan for reorganization of the AAE into state affiliate societies; the nomination of directors of the Association from the membership as represented in those state endodontic societies; and a restructuring of the nominating process for officers of the Association. Previously, nomination for all

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officers and directors was done by a committee consisting of the three past presidents of the AAE. The General Assembly also acted to make the office of Editor of the *Journal of Endodontics* an appointive office of the Board of Directors rather than an elective one. This action reflected the increasing importance of the *Journal* as an Association publication. The Board of Directors adopted a number of internal reforms dealing with budgeting procedures and the fiscal management of the Association in keeping with what was becoming a million dollar a year organization. Concurrent with these political events in the Association, beginning in 1982-83 and following up with General Assembly approval was a three-year Public Awareness Program financed by membership assessments.

Paralleling these changes in the internal affairs of the AAE and its membership was the development of the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA), from early discussions in 1983 to its first organizational meeting in Boston in 1986. AAE officers and members took leading roles in the creation of this organization with AAE staff providing logistical support.

Thus the year of my presidency represented to me, and I believe to my immediate predecessors as well, the culmination of our collective efforts in organizational reform. At the Annual Session in San Antonio it all came together in that the initiatives agreed upon five years previously and pursued so diligently were in place in the form of the organization of

district caucuses for the nomination of Association directors, the introduction of reference committees in which members could directly interact with officers, directors and committee chairs in matters of Association policy and/or administration, meetings of reorganized and restructured standing committees of the Association taking place, approval by the General Assembly of the Public Awareness Program as a continuing activity of the Association financed out of membership dues, the initiation of planning for a world congress in endodontics sponsored by IFEA and the incorporation of all the organizational changes approved by the Board of Directors and General Assembly since 1982 into a revised Manual of Operations for the Association. San Antonio was an outstanding Annual Session, as measured both in fellowship and scientific program, thanks to a lot of people in Texas and around the country. I left the presidency with a sense of accomplishment and pride in the achievement of those years by those officers, directors and committee chairs who contributed their time, talent and political know-how unsparingly to enable the AAE to become an organization in which each and every member could share their satisfaction in a job well done. The vision and fortitude of those whom I was privileged to work with should be the inspiration for all future leaders of the Association.

Dr. Heuer currently serves as Senior Associate Dean of the Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago, Illinois.

Presidential Profile

Robert G. Kesel

President, 1945-46

Robert G. Kesel was born in Aurora, Illinois in 1903. After graduating from the University of Illinois School of Dentistry in 1926, he remained at his alma mater and served as Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Materia Medica and Therapeutics from 1936 until his retirement in 1965. Dr. Kesel took a leave from these responsibilities from 1958 to 1960 to serve as Director of Professional Studies for the Survey of Dentistry for the American Council on Education.

Active throughout his career at all levels of organized dentistry, Dr. Kesel served as Editor of the Chicago Dental Society's *Fortnightly Review* and was a member of the Editorial Board of *Dental Progress*. Aside from the AAE, he also achieved the post of President of the American Academy of Periodontology, the Odontographic Society of Chicago and the Illinois State Dental Society. A frequent publisher of articles, he co-authored "Endodontology" with Dr. Edgar D. Coolidge. Dr. Kesel was a founder and charter member of the AAE and lent himself to many committees during its formative years. A Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics, he served as Vice President in 1944 before becoming President in 1945.

Dr. Kesel passed away in 1988.

Henry S. Schmidt

President, 1965-1966

Henry Schmidt was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1906. After his pre-dental education at the College of the City of Detroit, he entered the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, from which he graduated in 1929. After starting a private practice in northwest Detroit, which he would maintain for 46 years, he returned to his alma mater for postgraduate work in crown and bridge (1947) and endodontics (1948-49). Dr. Schmidt worked part-time at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry as part of a group of doctors conducting research in preventive endodontics from 1951-1961.

His professional affiliations included the Detroit Dental Society, the Michigan State Dental Association, the American Dental Association and the AAE. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. His interest in endodontics drove him to devote his efforts to various committees of the AAE, on which he often served as chairman. A founder and former chairman of the Ralph Sommer Endodontic Study Club, Dr. Schmidt served as Vice President of AAE before being installed as its President in 1965.

Dr. Schmidt passed away in 1985.