



The Pinnacle

President's Message

March 2019

By Dr. Jan O'Dell

President, College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics

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College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics
24607 Whispering Wheat Ln
Cary, IL 60013

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Phone: 630/510-7136

Fax: 888/426-0381

Email: info@collegeofdiplomates.org

Website: www.collegeofdiplomates.org

David Roberts,

Graphic Designer, DesignHouse415

As endodontists, when we finish a case it is natural to reflect on that case if only momentarily—almost subconsciously. Is it to the radiographic apex? Is there the perfect amount of sealer puff? Is the shape and taper perfect and the fill dense? Was the patient happy with their experience? Will they be telling their friends “you know I had a root canal yesterday and it was no big deal.” Or will we be exhausted, trying to explain the mistruths presented in “Root Cause.”

Being part of a successful event is no different, especially when introducing the Mock Board component to the Board Review Course. Was the timing of the event good? What about the venue? Was the length of the course adequate to cover the material? Were the speakers appropriate—were subjects as advertised? Did they cover the topic or were they too abstract or obtuse to understand? And the all-important issue of food—enough and the right variety? While it can be exhausting to evaluate the program immediately after a program ends, it is in this time that we can be most productive in determining how to improve for the next course.

The 9th Annual Board Review and Scientific Session was attended by over 170 individuals—our largest group to date.

Adding the Mock Orals allowed six candidates to learn more of what to expect during the real exam. There was also an opportunity to review cases that had been previously submitted to College mentors. This was a great opportunity for candidates to receive immediate feedback. It is the goal of the College to continue its fundamental mission of mentoring candidates who are in the process of board certification and provide continuing education to those Diplomates seeking re-certification.* From the feedback of the six participants, this was an extremely valuable addition to the course and all recommended both continuing and expanding it so that more candidates can benefit from the opportunity.

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Note on American Board of Endodontics Recertification Hours
We need to correct the information from our last Pinnacle issue regarding the number of hours required for recertification. 150 credit hours are required every 10 years for Recertification with the ABE. For full details, please refer directly to the ABE site at: <https://www.aae.org/board/recertification/>



President's Message

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Of course, this would not have been possible without the countless hours of planning that Dr. Priya Chand contributed. Recruiting the examiners from near (Raleigh NC) and far (London, England), pairing them to bring their strengths to the exam and using the matrices available on the American Board of Endodontics website, the examiners then worked together to create realistic case scenarios with questions reflecting realistic patients.

Dr. Alan Law secured the venue and speaker/topics while Dr. Ken Frick worked his magic with sponsors. Our speakers were without a doubt the best of the best. Topping the complaint list was the short amount of time given per topic. This was evidenced by running over at every presentation, then more questions in the atrium while on break and lunch. One possible solution may be to lengthen the course and this will definitely be discussed after a critical review of course evaluations by attendees. The College is always interested in hearing what topics will be of value. Again, we had more sponsors this year than any in the past. This means directly, that the College can continue to bring high quality courses for our candidates and members which will increase the number of Diplomates. Please take the opportunity at the AAE to thank those sponsors who so generously support our mission.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Department of Endodontics, deserves a shout out as well. Upon arriving, we were greeted by Dr. Susin and Donna who were happily wrapping the UNC Hershey Happy Valentine's Day bars for everyone until the early

morning "meet and greet" sign-ins before the daily sessions. This was just the tip of the organizational iceberg. They had been working with us over the past year in addition to all their other daily duties.

Upon completion of the Board certification process, the newly pinned Diplomates are given a year's membership to the College of Diplomates. This is a great chance for members to help pay it forward by mentoring others. Their recent experience and level of knowledge is so valuable to those in the process. And, as members, attending the Summer Conference provides an intimate gathering where friendships are formed and rekindled. These have always been at smaller more intimate locations and we intend to keep these meetings special so that we can enjoy one another while learning about current trends and issues relevant to endodontics and dentistry. To best meet the desires of our members, we will be sending out a quick survey to help us with the next "Summer" Conference. We will have three main questions. Not in any particular order, they will include: 1) the location, 2) the time (we are considering a move to the Fall) and 3) areas of interest. We hope to have the results available to announce at the celebration for our new Diplomates in Montreal.

While in Montreal plan to celebrate with us as we welcome the 2019 group of Diplomates, the largest in the history of our specialty. The candidates will receive their pin during the Grossman Ceremony, where they will be formally recognized for their achievements. You will be able to recognize them by their shiny new ABE pin and CoD scarf and pin. Please extend your congratulations to each of them as they have persevered and accomplished a very important professional milestone. 🎉

Treasurer's Report as of March 2019 College of Diplomates of the ABE

It is important that you, our College of Diplomates members, are informed on how your dues are used to carry on our core mission. The mission, of course, is the mentorship to endodontists wanting to challenge the ABE Oral Exam and Case History Portfolio. Each year we host, in partnership with an Advanced Education in Endodontics Program, a Board Review Course. The average cost of this about \$85,000. But with registration fees and sponsorship from Vendors, a profit is earned for the College and the hosting Program that can be from \$10,000 to \$20,000. We have also begun, under the direction of Dr. Priya Chand, the administration of Mock Oral Exams the day before the BRC, which the College underwrites expenses for. This is in addition to the many College volunteers who mentor and administer Mock Oral Exams over the phone with their mentees, throughout the year. College members are also volunteering their time to review Case Portfolios, as well.

Part of our mission also is to provide our membership a continuing education event once every two years, that is designed as a destination event that families can attend. This Summer/Fall Conference has always been highly praised for the quality of the event

by those in attendance. However, due to the limited attendance, this program often results in a loss to the College financially. But this is offset by the profits from the annual Board Review Course.

Probably one of the most fun and important events that the College sponsors is the reception given to new ABE Diplomates and their guests at the annual AAE session. This year in Montreal we expect to celebrate with over 300 at this event!

The financial health of the College is well. Balances over the years have remained consistent with the flow of events that occur year to year. As an example of this, below is the balances of the account held at Chase Bank at the end of the February Statements from 2017, 2018, and 2019. You are welcome to contact me at frickk@umkc.edu should you require any additional information. Thank you for your membership in the College of Diplomates! ☺

Kenneth J. Frick, DDS, MS
Treasurer, College of Diplomates

Balance February 28, 2017	\$220,738.64
Balance February 28, 2018	\$275,422.96
Balance February 28, 2019	\$218,061.12

There's no place for domestic violence

As endodontists and diplomates, we tend to focus on our patients and professional development. These are important and honorable endeavors. A recent tragic death of a dental assistant in my practice, one due to domestic violence, made me aware of a serious issue that I had fortunately not had to deal with in my personal or professional life. It has certainly made me more attuned to those I work with and see on a regular basis. I am writing this so that others may become more aware of domestic violence.

It's estimated that 1 in every 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience some form of domestic violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. Even

though an estimated 12 million people are victims of domestic violence each year, most cases go unreported to law enforcement.

Across the country, families and friends of victims have had to deal with the loss of loved ones at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted. As leaders in our practices, communities, and profession, it is important for us to remember and support the powerful message that there's no place for domestic violence in homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, or schools. ☺

Alan S. Law

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College of Diplomates of the
American Board of Endodontics
24607 Whispering Wheat Ln
Cary, IL 60013
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