

NEWS

Message From Our Distinguished Past-President Dr. George C. Stewart, 1958-59

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 served as President of the American Association of Endodontists in 1958-59. During my tenure as President, I was fortunate to have outstanding people working with me. I believe that one of my most important decisions was to appoint Dr. Jacob Freedland as my program chairman. He organized the finest annual program that our organization had had until that date.

Dr. Freedland has an unusual gift for organization, and is one of the most articulate persons that I have ever known. As a result of his many contributions and tireless efforts, he was elected President of the AAE in 1964-65.

During my presidency, we changed the time and place for the annual meetings. We had been meeting in Chicago, on either the last weekend in January or the first in February. The membership decided to hold our annual meetings in the spring, and I suggested that we rotate the place of the meeting among other cities.

Prior to the 1956 meeting, as a member of the Executive Committee, I had conducted surveys and had extensive consultations with many of our members. The information obtained indicated that the time was ripe for the AAE to sponsor the American Board of Endodontics.

I had contacted the Council on Dental Education and the American Dental Association for information pertaining to requirements for recognition of a special area of practice in dentistry. I was then able to prepare a preliminary draft of the aims and objectives of the Board, and requirements for certification by the American Board of Endodontics.

The Executive Committee approved the resolution and suggested that a special committee be appointed to incorporate the American Board of Endodontics for the AAE. The special committee, whose members were subsequently the first members of the American Board of Endodontics, was appointed by Dr. John Pear, President of the AAE. The following persons were appointed:

Edgar D. Coolidge
Louis I. Grossman
Elmer A. Jasper
John I. Ingle
George C. Stewart

Ralph F. Sommer
F. Darl Ostrander
Harry J. Healy
John R. Pear

The American Board of Endodontics was incorporated in the state of Illinois in 1956 by Harvey Sarner, legal counsel of the American Dental Association. During the following years, the Board and the AAE worked tirelessly and, in 1964, formal approval of endodontics as a special area of practice was granted by the Council on Dental Education and the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association. We were permitted to conduct our first examinations in 1965. As a result of this recognition, endodontic teaching programs were improved and research by graduate students and faculty expanded.

I would suggest that we encourage continued improvement of our post doctoral programs and that the programs be monitored to ensure that an appropriate number of graduates are educated to serve the needs of our population. We should also strive to aid out-of-country students so that they, in turn, can become leaders in their respective countries.

In the future, I would suggest that we continue to encourage younger people to accept responsibility in the AAE, and that they set policy and goals that serve the needs of our members.

George C. Stewart, DDS
Past President

Dr. Stewart is a Diplomate and former Chairman of the American Board of Endodontics. In 1982, he was awarded AAE's Edgar D. Coolidge Award for leadership and exemplary dedication to endodontics and dentistry. In addition to the AAE, he has served as president of the American Academy of Dental Medicine, the Philadelphia Society of Periodontology and the Philadelphia Academy of Stomatology. Dr. Stewart and his wife, Marjory, reside in Naberth, Pennsylvania.