



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### ICA at the Table

John K. Maltby, D.C.

You have probably heard it said that you shouldn't complain about the outcome of an election if you didn't take the time to vote. The same is true about the present state of our profession. If you are not involved in the solution, you are only contributing to the problem. Your ICA has been at the table fighting to protect the future of chiropractic at many levels.

Recently, at the CCE hearings before the Department of Education, the ICA had a greater representation than any other chiropractic group. The ICA expressed its serious concerns over the past actions of certain individuals within the CCE who seem to have made a concerted effort to minimize the conservative approach to chiropractic, as represented by the ICA.

In my closing comments to the USDE I stated:

*"I would hope that this body would consider the options available to them as they consider the recognition of the CCE. The ICA strongly supports the continuation of recognition by the Secretary, but not for the full five years as requested. The*

*ICA recommends that the Secretary extend recognition for a period not to exceed 2 years, during which time CCE must demonstrate a restructuring which represents an equitable representation of all chiropractic institutions. Also, the ICA requests that the Department of Education investigate the dissolution process of CCE in 2002, and see if in fact, there were any illegal actions taken by certain individuals representing CCE. Only when these questions can be answered, will CCE be able to move forward with the trust of this profession."*

Even though the committee recommended to the Secretary to extend CCE's recognition for the full five years, the resolution passed by a vote of 7-2 only after much discussion with the commission using the term 'cartel' and 'monopoly' several times.

I have been asked to serve on a task force established by CCE to review and rewrite the standards of CCE. Though the task force may only make recommendations, I believe this is a good first step. Only time will tell what impact we can make, but I promise you the ICA will be there every step of the

way, representing subluxation correction chiropractic.

Now, how about you? Are you participating, or just sitting back complaining? The ICA and chiropractic need you to be part of the process. We need you at the table. We need you to be an active member of the ICA. The ICA is growing every day with new, dedicated individuals with a vision for the future of chiropractic, willing to do whatever it takes to defend your right to practice chiropractic.

A great example is Don Harrison and his crew who spent countless hours analyzing the CCGPP draft that recently came out. Thanks to Don and others, ICA will have a complete analysis of this document, exposing many of its shortcomings and dangers. Stay tuned, ICA is on it.

In closing I would like to tell you about a close friend of mine who passed away yesterday. His name was Raymond Bray. He was my first Junior Lifeguard Instructor. Later I was fortunate to work with him in that same capacity. He was a great water polo coach. Most of all, Ray was great role model. He came up with the idea to have a run-swim-run from the Mexican border to the Huntington Beach Pier, which, as a crow flies, is a little over 100 miles. Everyone said it was impossible. Ray just said, "We'll see." Not only did he make it happen, he took a bunch of teenagers with him. I remember when they finished, some were cut up, some with wrapped knees, all sun burned beyond recognition, but all beaming with pride once they had completed what others said was impossible. This all happened because Ray had a vision to do the impossible.

I was able to visit with Ray last summer during a lifeguard reunion. Even though his body was weakened by a disease he knew would one day take his life, he still had the same glow, a glow that comes from dreaming the impossible and then making it happen. Ray Bray never showed fear, only determination. My life is better because of Raymond and I will miss him, but I will always remember his example.

Who's the Ray in your life?

**If you are not yet a member of a national association, join ICA.**

**We Need You. Chiropractic Needs You.**

**ICA Stands Up for Chiropractors!**

**We have since 1926. We have an 80-year record to prove it.**

**Send your completed ICA application on page 8 today!**



## ICA-PAC Endorses State Representative Bonnie Sharp for Kansas Insurance Commissioner

The International Chiropractors Association Political Action Committee (ICA-PAC) has proudly endorsed the candidacy of State Representative Bonnie Sharp in her race for Kansas Insurance Commissioner. "Chiropractors from Kansas should be very excited about this important race. Coming from a chiropractic family, Rep. Sharp brings a special perspective to this race, one of vital importance to doctors of chiropractic and chiropractic patients in our state," said Dr. Jim Kiehl, ICA Assembly Representative for Kansas.

Rep. Sharp has been on the Kansas House Insurance Committee for six years, serving as the Ranking Member for two of those years. She has also been a strong voice on the Appropriations Committee for the last three years. Rep. Sharp's commitment to passing common sense legislation that puts the people of Kansas first has created a strong record of accomplishment and independence in the Kansas House. Rep. Sharp told ICA, "As the wife of a chiropractor I understand the burden that insurance companies can place on healthcare providers. That is why I am running for Insurance Commissioner

here in Kansas."

Rep. Sharp has worked on behalf of the citizens of the state of Kansas for 10 years in the State House of Representatives, working with all members of the House to encourage bi-partisan approaches to creating more progress in Kansas.

The Department of Insurance was created in 1871 with the role of the Commissioner evolving throughout the years. Most have emphasized the licensing of agents and regulation of companies but Rep. Sharp's priority is to assist the consumer and educate Kansas about insurance.

"This is an office for the consumer," Rep. Sharp told ICA. "Although I am not taking money from the insurance industry, I want there to be no misunderstandings. I am a *fair* person, and I will be *fair* to insurance companies doing business in Kansas, but as your Insurance Commissioner, I am elected to make sure they are *fair to you!* That is my pledge to Kansas."

Rep. Sharp has a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Missouri in telecommunications. She has been married to Doctor of Chiropractic and active businessman Elmer Sharp for



**Representative Bonnie Sharp visits with ICA Missouri Assembly Representative Dr. James Kiehl at his office in Kansas City.**

40 years and has one daughter and two grandsons.

### Rep. Bonnie Sharp's Message

"Rep. Sharp's message is honest, compelling and of extreme interest to chiropractors and patients alike," said ICA-PAC Co-Chair Dr. Michael S. McLean. This is what she has to say:

"My husband, Dr. Elmer Sharp, has worked hard for many years to develop his practice in western Kansas City. We strive to put the needs of his patients first. But the insurance companies don't make it easy. Between the delinquent payments, inadequate compensation, and piles of unnecessary paperwork, it's getting harder and harder for chiropractors to provide the quality care our citizens need and deserve.

"As you know, patients are subject to two mandatory internal reviews from insurance companies before they are eligible for an external review by quali-

fied healthcare professionals. When patients have no alternatives for treatment, the added time and burden can be more than a nuisance — it can be life-threatening.

"That is why I worked to pass legislation this year that allows patients to bypass one of the internal reviews. You can always expect this kind of common-sense approach from me. We can put people first by cutting through all of this red tape and bureaucracy.

"But to do that, I need your help. The latest polls show a powerful movement in Kansas. People have had enough. People are speaking out.

"I have strong endorsements behind me, but I need your support to get this campaign off to a great start. With generous support we can achieve our goals and deliver our message to Kansas. We can develop our website, print informational materials, and begin to hire a top-notch staff — but only with your support."

Anyone interested in this important race can contact Rep. Sharp at 4218 Dixie Court, Kansas City, Kansas 66106 or call 913-220-5115

As Rep. Sharp told ICA, "You're always fair to patients. Isn't it time Insurance companies are fair too?"

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**www.chiropractic.org**