



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We Are ICA

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ICA President

I am honored and a little in awe to be writing this as my first presidential message for ICA. On the one hand it almost seems surreal that I have been given the touch of leadership of an organization that was started by BJ Palmer in 1926. I feel honored to be the 16th individual to serve as president of an organization that has been blessed with the finest leaders in chiropractic that include the likes of Dr. Leonard Rutherford, Dr. John Q. Thaxton, Dr. Sid Williams, Dr. Jim Gregg, Dr. Fred Barge, up to my immediate predecessor, Dr. John Maltby, to name just a few.

I have been privileged to serve on the ICA Board of Directors for over 25 years. During that period we have been through challenging, sometimes alarming and always demanding times, as well as times of important triumph and accomplishment both in the United States and around the world. Throughout those years I have become profoundly aware of one consistent theme — ICA is nothing more, and nothing less than those who step up to serve.

Over the past 40 years in my practice, I have been blessed to serve hundreds of people each day with the unique and

specific science, art and philosophy of chiropractic. When I did my job, removing interference from the innate intelligence in each of my patients, they healed themselves from Above-Down, Inside-Out, utilizing the inherent recuperative powers with which we are all endowed. In essence, my office had no special power, other than the powerful self-healing abilities that the patients brought with them.

I see the ICA in much the same way. ICA is not an office or a physical location in the Washington, DC area. ICA is not the staff, even though in my opinion we have the most gifted and the hardest working professionals I have ever seen in any organization. ICA is not its leadership, even though we have had some of the greatest leaders in chiropractic's history. What the ICA "IS", is its members. Ultimately, We Are ICA! ICA is those who stand up and be counted, who invest in chiropractic's future, who pay the dues that allow the organization to act and serve chiropractic worldwide. To them I want to say, "You Are ICA!"

I purposely did not say that those who are paying dues are "part of ICA". It is my belief that the ICA members "Are ICA". I see the ICA as a collection of dedicated doctors and support people

who collectively "ARE" ICA, making our organization so much more than the sum of its parts. This organization does not exist without you.

It has surprised me over the years when I hear some doctors ask the question, "What is ICA doing?" This question suggests that ICA is somehow separate from them, or that they are not a part of ICA. It would be like your sacrum asking what your atlas is doing. I see all ICA members as parts of one body. A more correct question would be, "What are 'WE' in ICA doing?"

As I said, I feel blessed to be given the helm of the oldest continuously operating, fully democratic international membership organization in chiropractic. But I am the 16th president of nothing without our members. ICA can be compared to a team sport. All sports teams depend on all their players to win.

We have two very important advantages on our side. We have the demonstrated validity of our science, and the enduring nature of our principles. These two advantages will continue to direct us in our activities and efforts. In 40 years, I have conducted my practice in accordance with the principles discovered by Dr. DD Palmer, and developed by Dr. BJ Palmer, ICA's founder and first president. As the new president of ICA, I shall not waver from these principles which have served me in my practice, and have served our profession so well for more than a century, worldwide. I see no reason to waiver from that which is true, and has worked in the face of overwhelming odds.

We have much to do. From national health care reform, to creating guidelines that help and protect the practice of chiropractic as we in ICA understand it,

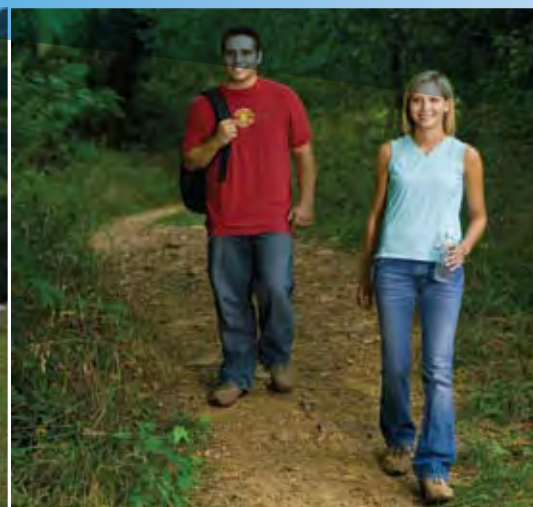
"WE" have much urgent work to do. WE have to repel the false attacks against the incredible safety record of chiropractic. "WE" have to make sure chiropractic is at the table and fully participating in any true health care reform. "WE" have to protect the chiropractic principle when it comes under attack both in the USA and around the world. And "WE" have to embark on a public relations journey that brings the value of correcting subluxations to the immediate consciousness of every family in the United States and ultimately, around the world.

Can ICA do the job for chiropractic that urgently needs to be done? We can if we all do our part. What is essential is that we carefully consider what our individual responsibilities are. We need to embrace our collective responsibilities and mobilize through chiropractic organizations and bring more workers into the collective problem-solving equation. What we must do is find the courage and the energy to pull out all the stops and reverse the alarming trend in which all of the major chiropractic organizations in the United States represent less than 20 percent of the profession's total strength. Join, contribute and above all, serve. WE need YOU to be a part of ICA!

"WE" do not have a small task in front of us. "WE" have much work to do. But I know that "WE" are up to the job. After all "WE ARE US, working together for chiropractic through the ICA"!



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