

# Opportunity Knocks

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE once in a lifetime opportunities. You must attend the Town Hall Meeting on Saturday November 4, 2006 at the Annual Session in Miami. You have the right and privilege to have your voice heard and to make an immediate and positive impact in the governance, direction, and future of the American College of Prosthodontists.

The ACP is a dynamic organization. The past decade has brought the College to a prominent position as the recognized (though not self-proclaimed) leader among the specialty groups. This was the result of visionary leaders who moved the College and the specialty to the forefront. This was not accomplished solely by the labors of a few individuals. The leadership has been assisted by our dedicated members and corporate supporters through our Foundation. You now have another opportunity to further the effort to strengthen the College and to create a contemporary model for governance.

At the 2004 meeting of the House of Delegates, a charge was directed to the College Board of Directors to examine the current system of governance and to determine if other models that would provide for "better" representation and participation of our grassroots membership should be considered.

Then-President Patrick Lloyd established the Governance Task Force with Jonathan Wiens as its Chairperson. The committee members include Drs. Christopher DiTuri, Gregory Guichet, Katherine Lee, Thomas Meng, John Murrell, Kenneth Schweitzer, Richard Seals, and Robert Taft. Over the past two years, they tackled this onerous and intense chore, and their efforts have culminated in a series of recommendations to the Board. From these recommendations the Board developed a series of resolutions that were reviewed by the Task Force, and shared with Officers of your State Sections for dissemination to the membership at large.

The resolutions and brief *rationales* are as follows:

1. That the Sections remain as viable entities within the governance structure of the ACP.

The Sections will be represented by Trustees.

*This would allow the State Sections to maintain their status and operate as they have been previously, without alteration.*

2. That one Trustee and one alternate Trustee be designated from each of five defined US regions, one from the Federal Services, and one International Trustee for a total of seven Trustees.

*This allows for diverse representation, and the alternate provides for ease of transition of the Trustee's term of service.*

3. That each trustee will be designated by their regional sections by the end of the Annual Session in 2007 and begin to serve on the Board of Directors.

*This provides for direct Board representation and participation. This will also assist in the dissemination of information and transparency of the activities of the Board.*

4. That each Trustee may serve a two-year term on a staggered, rotational basis, up to two (2) terms.

*This allows for continuity of representation over a reasonable period of time without making service as a trustee burdensome.*

5. That the BOD positions of second Director-at-Large and Speaker/Vice-speaker of the House be dissolved.

*These current positions would be unnecessary and would allow the Board to remain as a manageable number of participants*

6. That the House of Delegates be dissolved by the end of the Annual Session in 2007.

*The House of Delegates would be eliminated due to the structural change in the new governance model.*

7. That the Bylaws be modified to reflect the necessary changes as approved by the BOD-HOD, including determination of Trustee responsibilities and methods of selection/replacement,

and preferred channels of communications between members, Sections, Trustees, and the BOD.

*Following adoption of the resolutions, it will be necessary to review all Bylaws to reflect the new governance structure.*

The Board of Directors feels the above resolutions address the needs of the College and allow for representation in a more contemporary format, and governance in a more nimble manner.

The "final" structure of this new governance model will be developed at the Town Hall Meeting. That is why you must be there. Open forum discussions will be encouraged and facilitated by the Task Force members.

It will be ultimately up to you, the membership, to determine what configuration the new model will assume. The time is now! In order to continue the growth of the specialty, we need to continue to be proactive, and *YOU* need to be part of that process.

Each one of us has a responsibility to determine the direction and governance structure of the College. What may have been effective at one time may be currently obsolete. It has taken two years and concentrated evidence-based evaluations to bring us to this momentous event taking place at the 2006 Annual Session. If there are to be changes, they will reflect the wishes of the membership, not the Board of Directors. Your Board acts to serve the needs and direction of the members, our strategic plan, and communities of interest.

Opportunity is knocking...please respond by participating in this historic Town Hall Meeting in Miami. Make a difference in your future and the future of prosthodontics!

***(The meeting will be held on Saturday, November 4, 7:30 AM – noon, Jasmine Room, Hyatt Regency Miami).***

Bruce G. Valauri, DDS, FACP  
President

The American College of Prosthodontists



Copyright of Journal of Prosthodontics is the property of Blackwell Publishing Limited and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.