

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN

Dr. Harold B. Tondera, F.A.C.O.

I experienced something that is worth telling you. The American College of Chiropractic Orthopedists had its annual convention in Carlsbad, California (close to San Diego) on April 10 through April 13, 2008. My past experience with the A.C.C.O. has been very good as they have a reputation of obtaining top notch speakers on subjects that are important and yet on the edge of health care for the chiropractic physician. The faculty was superior. This was expected. Topics of the lectures were "Sleep: A Clinical Management Factor", "Documentation, Coding and Compliance", "Evidence Based Practice and Patient Centered Chiropractic", Current Research on the Effects of Leg Length Discrepancy on Lumbar and Pelvic Distortion", "Trends in Spinal Treatment", "Dermatological-Neurological Interactions", "Assessing Chiropractic Practices in Med-Mal Cases", and "Degenerative Diseases of the Spine, Imaging Update".

The speakers did not hold back but pointed out some of the failings of our profession, some of our bad habits, problems in communication, and following the guidelines. Usually when speakers do this, the participants have a tendency to make disparaging remarks to each other about the subject, or complaints during the break allowing for negative comments.

Strangely, this did not occur. All participants were in accord of the positive suggestions made and what each of us could do to prevent any miscommunication. There was a positive reaction to the speakers, each other and even during committee meetings. This attitude permeated the entire time of the convention and all other functions.

What a wonderful time. It was a real pleasure to see the confident attitude of a group of my peers willing to discuss and suggest changes that are necessary to conduct orthopedics in Chiropractic. There was laughter, there was cajoling and there was seriousness.

As President of the Council on Chiropractic Orthopedics, the A.C.C.O. allowed our organization to conduct our annual membership meeting. We gave two Presidential Awards this year. One award was given to Dr. James Brandt and the other to Dr. Stephen Capps. These were awarded to recognize their special efforts to the Chiropractic profession and especially the orthopedic specialty. During this meeting our newly elected executive committee, was introduced.

Being that this was my last general membership meeting as President, I received an award with the gavel on it. I shall enjoy this plaque and have fond memories of the interactions of this organization and especially the members of the board. This usually is a sad occasion, but this time, it was very positive as a new board would be taking office soon and the new challenges that they will face will be with honor, professionalism and ethical morals.

It was a productive time with the attitude of esprit de corp, positive feelings and friendships made and enhanced. It just doesn't happen very often.

Thanks A.C.C.O. for allowing me to take part.