

## Dynamic Chiropractic's Doctors of the Year

Editorial Staff

Our 2000 "Doctor of the Year" award goes to two DCs who have brought reform to the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE), a stagnating organization whose leadership hadn't significantly changed in almost 20 years. Their vision and persistence brought awareness to their fellow state board members and motivated delegates of the NBCE to vote in new leadership with a mission to better serve the chiropractic profession.

Drs. Temple and Edwards did not aspire to be leaders of a movement to reform the NBCE. They were among many state chiropractic board members asking pointed questions of the directors at the NBCE's 1999 annual meeting. And like most of the state board members present, they were unhappy with the answers.<sup>1</sup>

The frustration of the state board members led to the passage of a motion that was not on the meeting's agenda:

"To have the five district directors review the bylaws and report to the delegates at next year's annual meeting."

To assist in the review of the NBCE bylaws, Drs. Edwards and Temple stepped forward to volunteer their time and expertise. To their surprise, their offers to help were rebuffed.

Not easily dissuaded, Drs. Temple, Edwards, and several other state board members began studying the NBCE bylaws and developing suggestions for revisions. These were presented to the ad hoc bylaws review committee of the NBCE in August 1999.

Drs. Temple and Edwards had the impression that their suggestions weren't well received by the directors, but continued to work on the proposed revisions. Dr. Temple then took a more assertive step: He committed to run as a candidate for the board seat for District III (northeast).

The NBCE finally did make some changes to the bylaws, and notified the state board members by mail of the changes. Drs. Edwards and Temple, however, deemed that the changes to the bylaws were mostly cosmetic.<sup>2</sup> In a letter to the NBCE state delegates and alternates, Drs. Edwards and Temple addressed the revisions offered by the NBCE:

"Unfortunately, almost all the changes are grammatical in nature and do not address the concerns expressed by the state licensing board representatives at last year's meeting.

"But of greater concern and cause for apprehension, is that when presented with an opportunity to expand state board involvement, the NBCE went the exact opposite direction by crafting a document which intentionally attempts to strip state delegates of most powers.

"The NBCE revision would strip state delegates of "duties defined by law," even though it's evident the authors of the NBCE bylaws intended state delegates to have those duties. (Article II, Section 2.)

"It is very disturbing that the NBCE bylaw revisions were formulated and approved by the board without state delegates having any opportunity to comment or offer changes. Even more concerning, the NBCE has stated that the bylaw revision will be submitted for approval as a 'take it or leave it' offer with no opportunity for the state delegates to offer changes from the floor. The board went even further by saying any suggested changes would not be considered until the 2001 annual meeting.

"To truly strengthen the NBCE, the organization will hopefully allow a critical discussion of the issues so a democratic process can reach a successful consensus. The end result will hopefully be a document we can all support and stand behind. As representatives of state agencies that endorse the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, we hope you will review the enclosed amendments and bring your ideas to the meeting for discussion and consideration. Should you have questions or comments, please contact either one of us."

Throughout 2000, Drs. Temple and Edwards continued to keep their concerns active in the minds of the state licensing board members. Their persistence for change paid off. At the NBCE's 2000 annual meeting, NBCE board members John Tierney,DC, and Vincent Grecko,DC, lost their positions to the reform candidates: Vernon Temple,DC, and Rick Murphree,DC. New officers were also elected, signaling a dramatic change in the NBCE leadership.

The bylaw changes Drs. Edwards and Temple had worked so hard to procure came after the elections on the meeting agenda. As the elections provided new leadership, the NBCE delegates were content to let the proposed bylaws changes go through the bylaws committee for further consideration in 2001. Our congratulations go to both doctors for their unselfish commitment and extraordinary persistence.

### *References*

1. Nat'l Board Delegates Seek Greater Authority. Dynamic Chiropractic May 31, 1999 (<http://www.chiroweb.com/archives/17/12/20.html>)
2. NBCE Bylaws: Directors vs. Delegates. Dynamic Chiropractic May 1, 2000 (<http://www.chiroweb.com/archives/18/10/19.html>)

### Vernon Temple,DC,DACBO,FACO, Bellows Falls, Vermont

#### Education:

- Palmer alumni (1977 graduate)
- Postgraduate: chiropractic orthopedics certification, National College (1987-1991); diplomate of the American Board of Chiropractic Orthopedists (DABCO); Fellow in the Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedists; advanced certification in diagnosis, treatment and management of motor vehicle cervical acceleration/deceleration trauma; certification in accident reconstruction.

#### Practice:

- Solo practitioner, Bellows Falls, Vermont (Sept. 1978 to present)
- Licenses: Vermont; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; North Carolina
- Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshed, Vermont Chiropractic outpatient physician (May 1992 to

present)

#### Professional Offices:

- President - Vermont Board of Chiropractic Examination and Registration (July 1992-1996, and Jan. 2000 to present). Appointed Feb. 1987 by Governor Madeline Kunin. Reappointed by Governor Howard Dean.
- Executive Chairman of the Board - Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (1999-2000). Director, District III (April 1994 to May 2000).
- Vermont Medicaid Program: claims review consultant.
- NBCE District III Director - National Board of Chiropractic Examiners: (May 2000 to May 2003). Secretary and executive committee member. Co-Chair, NBCE Electronic Testing Committee.

### James Edwards,DC - Emporia, Kansas

#### Education:

- DC degree: Logan, 1977; BA, human biology, Logan;BS in education, Arkansas State University, 1970
- Postdoctoral Education: Logan, certification in physical therapy (1977); training in Orthopedics and Radiology, National College; certification in clinical nutrition, Colgan Institute of Nutrition (1993).

#### Clinical Experience:

- Private practice, Emporia, Kansas (1977 to present)
- Licensed in Kansas and Colorado

#### Professional Offices:

- Kansas State Board of Healing Arts - Appointed by Governor Joan Finney, 1994; appointed Governor Bill Graves, 1998.
- National Board of Chiropractic Examiners - Kansas voting delegate, 1998 to present; Kansas alternate delegate, 1996-97; examiner, Part IV practical examination, 1997.
- American Chiropractic Association - Executive Committee, 1999 and 2000; district # governor, 1998 to present; Kansas delegate, 1996-98; steering committee, National Chiropractic Legal Action Fund, 1999 to present; Board of Governors officer, 1998-1999; PAC chairman, 1998.
- Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards - Kansas voting delegate, 1998 to present.
- Kansas Chiropractic Association - District president, 1995; Board of directors, 1979 to 1994; Presidential Commendation for Distinguished Service, 2000; Presidential Award for Exceptional Service, 1998

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