

Remembering Those Who Pave the Way

Rand Baird, DC, MPH, FICA, FICC

This column pauses to express recognition and appreciation to the members of the APHA chiropractic section who have made our successful journey possible. Beginning in 1979, when a small group of chiropractors and chiropractic students at Cleveland Chiropractic College of Los Angeles turned a public health-class assignment into the start of something historical, through 2003, when chiropractic finds itself recognized by the APHA, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, and the World Health Organization, the foresight of all those who joined the APHA over the years have made it all possible.

Milestones along the way included:

- the establishment of the Chiropractic Forum - Special Primary Interest Group of APHA in 1981;
- the 1983 APHA Governing Council policy that recognized chiropractic as "safe and effective for neuromuscular-skeletal disorders and especially low back pain." This policy replaced anti-chiropractic policy that had been in place for 14 years;
- DCs being elected and appointed to APHA leadership positions, and winning awards for their performances;
- the ACA, ICA, CCE and several chiropractic colleges becoming agency members of APHA;
- chiropractic programs becoming a regular feature at APHA annual meetings each fall;
- full section status with the formation of the Chiropractic Health Care Section in APHA in 1995;
- chiropractic researchers and authors being published in the *American Journal of Public Health*; and
- a chiropractor serving as president of the Inter-Sectional Council of APHA, and gaining an *ex officio* seat on the APHA executive board before 2000.

The accomplishments of these true pioneers have earned a place in chiropractic history. The battle that began as a fight to end discrimination against the chiropractic profession, and culminated years later with a succession of recognition leading to full equity and parity with the other disciplines involved in public health, required a sustained effort. Our goal was to enhance chiropractic communication and credibility by participating and integrating into mainstream public health activities and utilizing APHA as the vehicle for that participation. We achieved that noble objective, and continue this important work today.

We thank the chiropractic professional associations, organizations and schools for their support. We especially thank the various chiropractic media (including *Dynamic Chiropractic*) for publicizing our efforts. We'd also like to thank some of the many current chiropractic APHA members, doctors, educators, students and others - some who have been APHA members for as long as 28 years, some for just a few months - who give us the strength to continue. Some participate regularly in APHA activities, and some serve simply by paying their annual dues, but all are acknowledged for helping the cause. We apologize for any omissions (especially of late-renewing, long-term members). This list was provided to us by APHA staff as of early January 2003, so it only includes members whose dues were current as of that given date. Congratulations and

appreciation go to:

James Joseph Abeler
Alan H. Adams
Robert W. Adams
Anne Peneff Albert
Gil C. Allen
Robert M. Allen
Martin Jeffrey Alpert
Vani Anand
Erik K. Anderson
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Danny C. Wong
Linda Lee Zange

We once had over 800 members; this list shows only the current membership of a little over 200. If

you've never been a member, join us now. If you are a former member, renew now and join our cause again. Membership information can be obtained at www.apha.org, or by calling section membership Chairperson Dr. Monica Smith (Palmer College of Chiropractic) at 563-884-5162.

Rand Baird, DC, MPH
Torrance, California

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