

The Articulator

December 2003

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the College of Denturists of British Columbia was held on September 27, 2003 in Vancouver. A small number of Registrants attended the meeting. The Chair reported on the activities of the College and its Committees. Audited financial statements are available from the College's Website. www.cd.bc.ca

This was the first year that the College held its meeting separate from the Denturist Association of BC's annual convention. Given the success of the meeting, it is likely that separate meetings will continue. There were some concerns that no continuing education was provided. The issue of the Quality Assurance program is dealt with separately in this Newsletter.

Election of Professional Representatives

Nominations open January 1, 2004. Each year, Registrants elect two professional representatives to the Board for three-year terms. The annual election is an important aspect of professional self-regulation. When denturism was designated, in 1995, one of the questions was whether a profession with such a small Registrant base could sustain a Health Professions College. During the transitional years, the elections were always hard fought. Now that the policies and procedures the College uses are in place, we have greater difficulty in attracting candidates. Please consider running in the upcoming election. The time commitment is not onerous. The Board meets four times per year and there are a host of Committees with different levels of activities. This will be an exciting and transitional year for the College. Amendments to the Health Professions Act necessitate changes to numerous areas of the College. Bring along your ideas and come and participate in a professional responsibility. A letter of consent is included with this Newsletter.

Interesting Websites

www.cd.bc.ca
www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/leg/
<http://cdsbc.org/>
<http://www.vcc.ca>
<http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/>

Current Members of the Board:

Professional

Feldman, Gary
Hengel, Doug
Hughes, Rod
MacPherson, Fern
Stewart, Gary
Thobaben, Tricia

Public

Hinton, Geri
Jones, Andrea
Varshney, Hari

Quality Assurance Requirement

The end of another year for reporting continuing education and quality assurance is quickly approaching. The deadline for reporting hours is December 31 and this December is the second year of the three-year cycle. Generally Registrants should obtain 10 hours per year, in order to meet the minimum requirement of 30 hours per 3-year cycle. Registrants must, in each year, obtain at least 5 hours. This applies even if a Registrant completes the 30-hour requirement in the first year. Each Registrant received a copy of their personal record in September. Please carefully review the record to ensure that it correctly reflects courses you attended. Errors or omissions should be reported to Stephanie Pontes as soon as possible.

Each year the Members of the Committee review numerous applications, and each meeting a number of requests are returned to Registrants because not enough information is provided. The Policy section of the Handbook sets out all of the policies and procedures for having courses approved. While the wording in the Policies take precedence, and without reproducing all of the information, the following may be helpful to Registrants submitting material:

Audited Financial Statements:

The 2003 Audited Financial Statements are available on the College's Website.

www.cd.bc.ca

QAC Cont'd...

To be considered submissions must include:

- ◆ Name of the course
- ◆ Location
- ◆ Date the course was (is) offered
- ◆ The length of time of the course
- ◆ The name of the person who presented the course
- ◆ A biography of the person who taught the course
- ◆ The name of the sponsor, if any
- ◆ A course outline or list of learning objectives

Registrants can further assist the Committee by adding a statement about how the course relates to denturism. A copy of the course handouts is usually very helpful. The Registrant should also indicate whether the course directly or indirectly relates to denturism. The policies, available in the Handbook and on the Website, clearly set out the topics in each category.

Finally, please note that some course sponsors are particularly inept at submitting material on behalf of Registrants. This is despite the College staff spending hours attempting to get the information. The responsibility for reporting compliance rests with each Registrant. The office staff facilitate wherever possible.

***The reporting deadline is December 31 –
Don't miss it!***

Amendments to the Health Professions Act

The Government of BC has passed substantial amendments to the Health Professions Act. The amendments will affect the College and its Registrants. The new Health Professions Amendments Act (Bill 62) and ancillary legislation completes a long-held Government initiative. With proclamation, all freestanding health regulatory legislation (including medicine, dentistry, and nursing) will be repealed and Colleges, created under the Health Professions Act, established for all health professions.

The lengthy process involved a complete review of the Health Professions Act. While the review was underway, the Government modified the Act, eliminating the Health Professions Council and entrenching the application and review process within the Ministry.

Bill 62, the Health Professions Amendment Act 2003 includes a number of substantive changes to the legislation in addition to those previously mentioned. Some of the highlights include: election validation and appeals procedures, sections enabling the ministry to inquire into the administration and operation of a College, expanded and clarified Bylaw provisions including the approval process, and substantial changes to the Inquiry, Discipline and Quality Assurance Programs. Please visit the Government's Website <http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/leg/proposals.html> for the complete text of the proposed changes.

The changes to the Health Professions Act impact this College in a number of ways. This will be most apparent in the Quality Assurance Program. As of this writing the Quality Assurance Committee has initiated a review of QA programs that will meet the requirements of the Act. While the main objective of any new program must be to meet the requirements of the law, the Committee also wishes to implement a program that Registrants see as valuable. The Committee welcomes comments from Registrants about quality assurance and or total quality management initiatives.

The changes to the Act also necessitate rewriting the College's Bylaws and the Handbook for Registrants. Changes will be implemented, following the consultation period established by the Act, in the next year and onward as required.

Degree program:

Recently, Vancouver Community College has asked whether the College of Denturists of British Columbia will support an associate degree program for Denturists. The College Board is excited by this prospect, and looks forward to further discussions with VCC. Albeit early in the development of the process, the intention is that the diploma option would continue to exist for students. The degree would be in addition to the diploma. There would be a number of avenues to obtain a degree. It is anticipated that the internship may be included as part of formal education, and the licensure examinations delivered in conjunction with completion of the program.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee of the College proposed and the Board of the College accepted a draft budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The challenge of keeping expenditures within the limits of income generated from licensure fees becomes more difficult each year. It has been eight years since the creation of the College. During that time renewal fees have not increased. The recent amendments to Health Professions mentioned in this publication will have an impact on the administrative costs of our College. Fees will not increase for the 2004-2005. However, the board anticipates a deficit that will be offset by previous years' interest revenues and retained revenues.

Inquiry Committee:

The Inquiry Committee is currently investigating 14 complaints. The complaints range from quality of practice/ standards complaints to advertising complaints. There are specific issues, which arise time and time again from complaint files. The most common source of complaints is immediate dentures. The issue revolves around apparent misunderstandings about what is included in the original fee and what the patient will have to pay for after the initial insertion. It is often helpful to present a written estimate to patients detailing their treatment and the anticipated costs of the treatment. It is very important that all financial information be included in the patient treatment ledger.

The adequacy of patient records continues to be a concern to the Committee. When a complaint is received the Committee will always ask for a copy of the patient record.

This raises the question of what is a patient? If a patient presents in a Registrant's office specifically for a second opinion, then the Registrant must make a patient record that details their findings. The Committee has accepted that, for adjunct services such as repairs, a full record need not be created. However, the patient's name and telephone number should be entered in the Registrant's appointment book.

The Committee would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the many Registrants who assist investigations by conducting peer reviews, and those Registrants who complaint activities are nonexistent.

Discipline Committee:

The Discipline Committee has been active during the reporting period. The Committee adopted what is known as *Agreed Statement of Fact* procedures. This provides Registrants, who have received a Citation for a Hearing, an opportunity to proceed through written statements as opposed to an oral hearing. The use of the procedure does not preclude a Registrant's right to an oral hearing. It is a more cost effective way, for all parties, to conclude disciplinary proceedings. The Committee is pleased to report that one disciplinary hearing was concluded through the use of *Agreed Statement of Facts*.

The amendments to the Health Professions Act introduce a new procedure entitled *Consent Order*, which is related to Inquiry and Discipline. The purpose is to clarify the process for Registrants to consent to remedial action, while ensuring procedural fairness and protecting the panel of the Discipline Committee from bias.

The procedure, in addition to the clarification of allowable costs and tariff, will result in substantially higher costs to Colleges. This, of course, will only apply in situations in which the Respondent fully utilizes the procedures in litigating the dispute. While the additional exposure to increased costs is a concern, costs will continue to be mitigated by effective investigations and evidentiary evaluation by the Committees involved.

Registration Committee:

The Registration Committee continues to develop policies and procedures related to examination and registration. Registration statistics follow:

Registration Class 2003	2002 Current	
Active Full 165	137	154
Active Limited B 35	56	37
Active Limited C 1	2	2
Inactive 11	13	13
Student 14	21	15

Congratulations to the students who successfully completed licensure examinations in July 2003. Ten Candidates attempted the examination with eight successfully completing the process. The Committee is in the process of reviewing and finalizing the scores of the other Candidates. An unsuccessful Candidate from the 2002 examination began litigation in December 2002.

As litigation proceeded, the Candidate failed to register in time for the 2003 examination. No further litigation has occurred. The College of Denturists of British Columbia remains prepared to defend its position.

Internship:

The interns must submit their completed portfolios on or before April 8, 2004. Please note that the requirements have been modified slightly from previous years. Interns must now provide three copies of the portfolio. This will assist the Committee in conducting a prompt review of the material.

Examinations:

A Theory Examination has been approved for January 14, 2004 by the Registration Committee. If you are a Candidate, you will be invited to attend. You must request permission from the Registration Committee if you are not going to attend the examination. The request must be in writing and must be received prior to December 30, 2003. Read your invitation to attend carefully.

Clinical Examinations are proposed for July 12- 15, 2004. In order to qualify to attend this examination you must pass the Theory Examination, and have successfully completed the internship process. Invitations will be sent in May 2004.

Examiners are required for the clinical examinations - Call the office if you're interested!

For your information:

The following table provides comparative Registration renewal data:

Jurisdiction	Active Fee	QAC hours required P/Y
College of Alberta Denturists	\$2000	100 hours in 5 years
Denturists Board of Manitoba	\$1300	0 hours
Denturist Board of Nova Scotia	\$1300	0 hours
College of Denturists of Ontario	\$1007.41	No hours required. Yearly self assessment
College of Denturists of BC	\$800	30 hours in 3 years
Newfoundland & Labrador Board	\$300	0 hours
Yukon Territory Services	\$200 to register \$100 annually	0 hours
NWT Professional Licensing	\$175 to register \$75 annually	0 hours
Denturist Society of Saskatchewan	No data	0 hours
L'Ordre des Denturologistes	No data	No data
New Brunswick Denturists Society	\$75	0 hours

Call for Nominations

The election of professional representatives to the College Board begins with a call for nominations. Nominations open on January 1, 2004. To be valid, nominations must be received by the College office not later than February 2, 2004 and must include a completed letter of consent and declaration form signed by the nominee and a letter from an active registrant nominating the nominee. Please refer to sections 5 and 6 of the Bylaws for full election procedures.

A ballot containing the names of nominees will be mailed to each active registrant prior to February 16, 2004, and must be returned on or before March 11, 2004. The new members' term begins April 1, 2004. Each term of office is three years. There are two (2) vacancies for the up coming term

The Articulator is the newsletter of the College of Denturists of British Columbia. It is meant to provide information to registrants, members of the public, and other organizations. In the event of a disagreement between information in this newsletter and the *Health Professions Act*, Denturist Regulation, Bylaws, or policies of the College, the wording of the *Act*, Regulation, Bylaws and policies take precedence. Letters and articles are welcome. The Board reserves the right to edit submissions for length or to refuse to publish any letter or article. Copyright December 2003.

Write to

The Articulator

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