

## District 17: Florida News

### Regent's Report

John Jordan, DMD  
Regent Florida Section



The Seventeenth District welcomed seven new Fellows into the ICD at the Orlando meeting last fall. We were pleased to honor; Joseph V. Calderone, DMD of DeBarry, Malcolm E. Hawley, DDS of Winter Park, James R. Hayslett, DDS of Clearwater, Raed S. Kasem, DDS of Clearwater, Rory E. Mortman, DDS of West Palm Beach, Richard L. Sherman, DDS of Pembroke Pines and James G. Wilson, DMD of Tampa. Our inductees of the Class of 2010 are the best of dentistry and will proudly represent the ICD.

We will be diligently working as a section to involve more members of the ICD into Mentor programs at both of our Dental Schools-University of Florida College of Dentistry and Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine. We want to associate "Leadership" and the International College by participating wherever we can in our universities' leadership development programs. Our annual breakfast meeting with the Florida Pierre Fauchard Academy is once again in conjunction with the Florida National Dental Convention and tentatively scheduled for June 11, 2011.

Please make it a point to join-in these upcoming events and mingle with your "fellows"

**Regent, John Jordan, DMD**



## Leaders Handle Various and Sundry Challenges

**Dr. Hugh Wunderlich**

**Editor**

A series of decisions led us to choose our new leader. At one point, we even flipped a coin.

It was his decision to fly out that day. And since he was a pilot, and a gray-haired dentist familiar with this part of the world, we followed.

Our mission in Southern Africa had diverted us to Linkwasha. The obscuring fog and morning mist made the air heavy and wet. I could only *hear* the sputtery engine of the landing plane, in which we were to depart.

The African plains looked much different than the viney foliage in the Tarzan movies. The “runway” – anywhere there wasn’t a tree or a herd of wildebeests – was typical for this part of Zimbabwe. The “tarmac” was an area of flattened grass that a sleeping elephant had abandoned – a great natural crop circle. I finally made out the blue-gray shape of a Cessna 172. It likely was the exact plane I’d soloed in 30 years ago.

We were about to take off, with zero visibility, in a dubious, overloaded plane. What could be worse?

The ground was soft and muddy from a night of rain, so it was impossible to land hard and run out long. The well-named elephant grass quickly wrapped around the wheel struts, bringing the plane to a stop just inside our circle of trampled grass.

“Better get in before it gets worse,” our leader commanded.

We were in a muddy field in the middle of Zimbabwe, surrounded by unseen animals and termite mounds the size of sport utility vehicles. We were about to take off, with zero visibility, in a dubious, overloaded plane. What could be worse?

The pelting rain pointed the direction of the wind and our departure. I could hear the dim, sporadic buzz of the stall-warning horn as the grass released its tangled grip and the airplane ached for altitude. The window was of no value – the view indicated we were wrapped in a bale of cotton – but the altimeter said our situation was improving. My new concern was flying into something, so I scanned the only thing I could see – the instrument panel.

“Where’s the transponder? How do we keep from flying into other aircraft?” I quizzed.

“Don’t have one,” the pilot said, pointing to a cheese sandwich stuffed into a pigeonhole in the panel. “It’s no problem,” he continued. “Who else would be stupid enough to be flying around in this?”

This was our leader.

Many of organized dentistry's recent meetings have focused on the way we decide long-range strategy and policy, and the process by which we select our future leaders. We're very fortunate to have skilled, dedicated leaders who are the envy of other constituents. But among progressive volunteer organizations and businesses, there's a movement to identify leaders and develop their management qualities early in their careers.

The Florida ICD Leadership is working to benefit organized dentistry *and* help you hone your leadership skills in your professional and personal lives. We hope to grow the mentoring programs of both our native Dental schools and associate the ICD with "leadership" whenever we can. Gray hair no longer is a prerequisite. Experience always will be an asset. But we need a process to get the right people for the right jobs at the right times.

Any of you could serve in a mentoring or leadership role. That way, the ICD won't have to fly around in the fog, if it ever sets in.

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