A word about Fellowship nominations...

We are gradually coming out of a COVID slump that has impacted nominations for the past two years. And it’s crunch time with a due date in late January. The challenges that are facing the profession of dentistry make the College Mission an imperative. The Mission to enhance excellence, ethics, professionalism, and leadership has a direct impact on the issues that we face. A strong Fellowship is essential for the effectiveness of the Mission. Naturally, Fellowship is a recognition and dues dollars help initiatives. More importantly, we need a strong structure with active disciples and leaders to advance the Mission. There have been times in the past century when it might not have been so important. But now we are faced with commercialism, entrepreneurialism, overtreatment, huge student debt, increased overhead costs, loss of dentists’ autonomy, and a risk that dentistry might no longer be recognized as a profession. So we need your help identifying new Fellows; it doesn’t happen by accident. You know someone worthy or know someone who does. Please nominate them now.

The nomination process might seem intimidating, but the process is straight-forward via acd.org/nominations/. There are three steps to the process.

First, identify a candidate. Think out of the box; it does not have to be an aging Association leader. Look for someone that mirrors our Mission. Consider:

- New graduates with the ACD Outstanding Leadership Award, SPEA leadership, or strong student resume.
- Other organizations: NDA, HAD, specialty organizations, examining boards, etc.
- Cross check the ACD roster against ICD and PFA and past award nominees of your state / provincial dental association.
- Geographic (Section) committees work well because we may be unfamiliar with those in distant locations.

The nomination process is to be kept CONFIDENTIAL. There are several good reasons, including avoiding hurt feelings.

Second, tell the prospect, “I would like to nominate you for a professional honorary recognition. May I have your CV, including birthdate, and any civic or community activities/contributions?” As an alternative, you may send the PROFESSIONAL and BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE file to the candidate for completion and to be returned to you, the nominator. You will need a seconder’s contact information, but they will not be required to be an active participant. The nominator is not asked to write a letter of support but rather complete the FELLOWSHIP NOMINATION FORM and respond to four questions of support. It is not essential to include the ADA or CDA number as the Executive Office will verify membership.

Third, go to acd.org/nominations. There is a biographical information form and a one-page support form. These forms may be completed and directly uploaded or downloaded to be completed offline. There will be boxes for your responses regarding your nominee’s Leadership, Service, Awards & publications, and any additional Relevant support. You can upload the CV. Less than 10% of nominations are rejected and most rejections are due to the wording or completeness of the support statement, not to any shortcoming of the candidate. Do not merely repeat the items shown in the CV; use the CV as your “springboard” to emphasize what makes the candidate special beyond basic excellence in clinical practice, how they reflect the College core values, and why they should be a Fellow. We honor those who have already served their profession and their community, but we also induct those who show promise of future significant contribution.

Many ACD Fellows nominate several candidates each year. It takes me about an hour to write a nomination once I have the CV; the individual, the College, and the profession are worth my time. How about you?

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