



**INTERNATIONAL CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

*Official*

**ICA POLICY STATEMENT**

**T**HE Board of Control of the International Chiropractors Association, meeting in Hollywood, Calif., February 17-21, 1959, once again had the duty of reviewing the many accomplishments of the past year, and of considering the problems still facing the profession in the years ahead.

During the first six months of the current fiscal year, the membership department reported one of the largest increases in membership of any comparable period in the history of the Association, and that as of January 31, 1959, the ICA had a larger total membership than ever before. Inquiries directed to those joining the Association recently revealed two major factors which were responsible for this record growth:

1. **The fact that the ICA is doing more than any similar organization to promote, protect and defend the practice of ethical chiropractic.**
2. **The belief that ICA offered better services in the area of insurance and legal defense than any other organization.**

It is significant also that these new members came from many different chiropractic colleges and practice many different kinds of chiropractic technique. The ICA membership roster includes alumni of every reputable college of chiropractic now in operation, as well as some who are graduates of schools now amalgamated with other colleges or which are no longer in operation. This is a healthy sign, and evidences the purpose of the ICA to truly represent the whole profession without reference to a particular technique or school.

Likewise, the membership on the ICA Board of Control is composed of graduates of four different chiropractic colleges, and the Constitution provides, in addition to other requirements, that one member of the Board be a practicing chiropractor in the Dominion of Canada and that two members shall represent our schools. The President of Logan College and the Dean of the Atlantic States Chiropractic Institute presently hold the latter positions on the Board.

Members of the Board are elected by the Representatives of each state, province and territory in which ICA has members. Representatives, in turn, are elected by the membership in the respective jurisdictions by secret ballot, and the number of representatives from each state is proportionate to the size of the membership. Officers are

elected by the membership, in person or by proxy, at the annual convention of the Association. This democratic process has provided for a healthy turnover in the membership of the Representatives Assembly, the Board of Control and the Executive Officers. At the same time stability and continuity of personnel and program has been maintained.

The increasing responsibilities of the Board have required the holding of two four day meetings of the Board each year. Two days of each meeting are entirely consumed with the separate deliberations of the 19 committees into which the Board has divided itself for more thorough study of the matters of program and service suggested by our membership and with which the Board is vitally concerned. During the last two days the Board hears and passes upon the several reports of the Committees, and takes such further action with respect to the management of the affairs of the Association as may be necessary from time to time.

The directives of the Board then become the pattern and policy for the officers and the staff to follow during the interim period between Board meetings. The officers and staff are in turn responsible to report to the Board concerning their activities. New problems arising in the interim between meetings of the Board are referred to the proper committee for consideration, and if the Committee is in doubt concerning Board policies on such interim matters, such problems are referred to the entire Board for balloting by mail. On important and very urgent problems, special meetings of the Board may be called. No officer, Board member, or staff member therefore has authority to act except in accordance with Board directive.

**T**HE position of the ICA with reference to chiropractic and its preservation is well known. We have held that there should be no mystery or lack of understanding as to what is comprehended or meant by the term "chiropractic." But in response to an appeal from our membership for a definitive statement to be used as a policy guide, the Board of Control at this meeting unanimously approved the following:

**"The SCIENCE of chiropractic deals with the relationships between the articulations of the vertebral column and the nervous system, and the role of these relationships in the restoration and maintenance of health.**

**"The PHILOSOPHY of chiropractic is based upon the premise that disease or ab-**

normal function is caused by interference with nerve transmission and expression, due to pressure, strain or tension upon the spinal cord or spinal nerves, as a result of bony segments of the vertebral column deviating from their normal juxtaposition.

**"The PRACTICE of chiropractic consists of analysis of any interference with normal nerve transmission and expression, and the correction thereof by an adjustment with the hands of the abnormal deviations of the bony articulations of the vertebral column for the restoration and maintenance of health, without the use of drugs or surgery. The term 'analysis' is construed to include the use of X-ray and other analytical instruments generally used in the practice of chiropractic."**

It is to be understood that the Board approves any reasonable measures and advice which fall in the area of case management. Common sense dictates that in the interest of the welfare of the patient, chiropractors cannot and should not remain mute and insensitive to the needs of the patient. But the chiropractor steps out of his legitimate field when he uses or prescribes devices, substances or measures which constitute therapy in and of themselves. The adjustment of the bony articulations of the vertebral column for the restoration and maintenance of health is the fundamental premise of chiropractic. The chiropractor should maintain his qualifications to render this service to his patients, and should so conduct himself and his practice that this special field can never be taken over by other healing arts professions. When chiropractic patients require other therapy, therefore, the chiropractor should unhesitatingly refer such cases to those who are qualified to render such service by training and experience. We cannot command the respect of the other professions if we, as chiropractors, persist in trespassing in other fields of healing.

Medicine has many shortcomings, both in theory and in practice. But chiropractors cannot say that they have so perfected chiropractic science and practice that it is inflexible. Both professions have much to learn, and it is well to remember that there are circumstances in which both are needed. We propose, therefore, that the time has long since arrived when we should stop uninhibited castigation of the medical profession. Every chiropractor encounters cases in which cooperation of the ethical chiropractor and the medical doctor is imperative in the interest of the public health and welfare. It should therefore be the policy of

every chiropractor to build the prestige of the chiropractic profession on the merits of chiropractic and the service thus made available to the public.

We believe that the ICA has a duty to remain the stalwart champion of a free and independent chiropractic profession, and we likewise maintain that all chiropractors who believe in this objective should take their stand with us by adding their names to the ever growing roster of ethical chiropractors who belong to the ICA. No one is barred from membership because he graduated from a particular school, or because he practices differently from some one else. Nor are the graduates of any particular school preferred over others. ICA is a chiropractic organization for chiropractors.

It shall always be the purpose of the Board of Control to so administer the affairs of the ICA that maximum service shall be rendered our membership and the profession, consistent with our resources. As ICA increases in membership, and financial strength, more effective programs and services will be made available. Constant improvement and upgrading in all departments is the unalterable goal of this Board. We commend to your reading the progress report accompanying this policy statement.

To the end that these policies and objectives be established for the benefit of the profession and the general public, we pledge cooperation with and assistance to chiropractors, chiropractic organizations and institutions whose aims and objectives parallel those of the ICA.

Respectfully submitted,

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