

# Chairman's Message

## An Open Letter to the ACA Staff



*JAMES D. EDWARDS, DC*

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as chairman of the ACA board of governors during the past 12 months. Before this term ends, I want to tell you what I think about the current state of the ACA and what I think about the ACA staff.

Simply put, there has never been a better time to be an ACA leader because never has the ACA done more—with fewer resources—than it is doing right now. The ACA is defending the chiropractic profession and chiropractic patients on more fronts than at any other time in history.

But the ACA wasn't always like this. Over a period of several years, the ACA has been converted from a dead-in-the-water rusting hulk to a modern nuclear aircraft carrier with the full array of weaponry necessary to defend and protect this profession. And

that powerful ACA warship is now achieving victory after victory after victory. From securing legislation to make chiropractic available to our men and women in uniform and for veterans, to having a DC treating members of Congress, to filing federal lawsuits against both HCFA and the Blues, the ACA is doing it all.

I would like to say to the staff that although the current ACA leadership team has worked extremely hard to make the ACA a lean, mean fighting machine, we are not the ones responsible. As an ACA staff person, you, more than anyone else, know the person most responsible is ACA Executive Vice President Gary Cuneo. During the past seven years, Mr. Cuneo has totally rebuilt the ACA by recruiting very bright and very dedicated individuals to join the ACA staff. In other words...you.

I wish every ACA member could visit the ACA headquarters just to watch your focused "bee-hive" activity and have the opportunity to meet each staff member. You are 40 dedicated men and women who, day in and day out, give 110 percent for the chiropractic profession. Almost every day during the past year, at least one of you has done something that either impressed or just downright amazed me. From Finance...to Professional Development and Research...to Member Services...to Communications...to Government Relations...to Legal...to Business Development, you have become a cohesive high-

energy team that has made this profession very proud.

Who knows? Maybe publishing this open letter will result in a few thank-you notes from ACA members. Or maybe some ACA members will go out and recruit a new member so more funds will be available for your salaries. Or maybe some ACA members will increase their ACA-PAC contributions so your job will be easier when you lobby members of Congress. Or maybe some ACA members will choose to increase their level of giving to the Legal Action Fund so you can reduce the time you spend on fund raising. Whether that happens or not, I want you to know how much your outstanding efforts are appreciated.

On behalf of all ACA members...thank you. The chiropractic profession is extremely grateful and extremely proud of you! ▼

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