

Commentary

Joint Special Award to Dick and Anita Barrett

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Joint Special Award to Dick and Anita Barrett

It was truly a joyous moment when Dr. Logan Barnard, the incoming President of IAOM, presented a beautiful plaque (Figure 1) as a joint special award to honor Richard and Anita Barrett (Figure 2). Dick is the immediate Past President of the association, and Anita is the Executive Secretary. The plaque is inscribed as follows:

With gratitude and love,
The International Association of
Oral Myology

presents this special award to
Richard and Anita Barrett
for many years of unselfish attention
to us all.

June, 1979

This was but a token of our heartfelt thanks and deep feeling of gratitude to Dick and Anita for their tenacious loyalty and for the Gargantuan effort they have put into making IAOM the fine professional organization that it is.

Since the original organizational meeting in San Francisco in 1972, Dick has attended every Executive Board meeting and every general meeting of the association. With only two exceptions, Anita has been there with him, although she did not contribute directly in the board meetings the first few years. Because of her keen interest in the organization, Anita officially joined three years ago. Since she is not a therapist, she joined as an Associate Member, a membership category which is neither privileged to vote nor to hold office. Nevertheless, she was given, and willingly accepted, more work to do

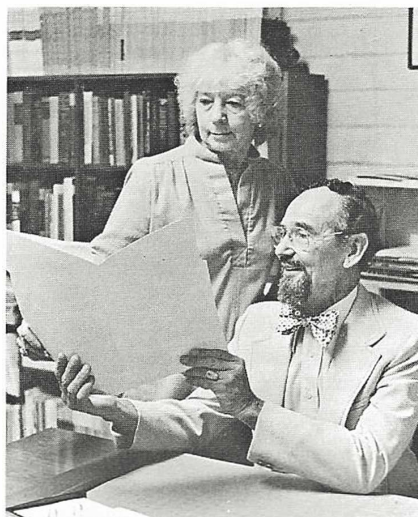


FIGURE 2: Anita and Dick Barrett in their office in Tucson, Arizona. Anita is Executive Secretary of IAOM, and Dick is immediate Past President.

than most other members. The major portion of her service might be described as a "relay station." Anita established a permanent address for IAOM in Tucson and took on the enormous task of coordinating all the mail and doing endless typing and filing chores. She did all of this unpretentiously, seeking neither thanks nor recognition.

The officers of the association were cognizant of the tremendous job that Anita was doing so unselfishly. As one of the first official acts to transpire after Dick left office, Anita was elected to the lifetime position of Executive Secretary. She now serves as an ex officio member of the Executive Board and has the right to participate directly in the deliberations of the organization.

Her input is not only welcomed but is deemed essential.

Dick, who is in private practice in speech pathology and oral myology in Tucson, has generously donated one of his therapy rooms, which Anita has transformed into a central office for IAOM. There, she processes all incoming mail, maintains most of the files and records of the organization, keeps the membership list up to date, and discharges all of those secretarial and clerical jobs which are vital to the well-being of the association.

Dick and Anita have always worked closely together. All of us who have taken therapy courses in Tucson will remember that Anita worked in the office right alongside Dick. In fact, rather than simply work in the office, she *ran* it (and still does). I recently asked Dick what duties Anita performs and received this reply:

I suppose that "Office Manager" would be the proper title, except that she is also the receptionist, is the jealous guardian of the appointment book, serves as the eagle-eyed accountant, personal secretary (she types all the correspondence and did the entire first edition of the book, *Oral Myofunctional Disorders*, eight times), is the errand person, keeper of the coffee pot, janitress, and listens to me complain.

He admitted that, after that last sentence, he didn't know what he had to complain about. He reckoned that he couldn't hire enough people to duplicate Anita's efforts, and, even so, they would not do things to suit him. He added that he felt her greatest contribution was doing everything just the way he would want it done. He said, "Over the twenty years since she assumed all of those roles, she just kept trying until she got it right."

Perhaps one of their most enduring attributes which makes the Barretts so dear to each of us is their unwavering faith in all human beings. Because they are the very finest of people, they believe in, and expect the best of, everyone else. Through their moral support and encouragement, they help each of us grow.

Dick and Anita, please accept our loving thank you for your service and devotion, your leadership, your strength of purpose, your gentle counsel, and your kindness. We hold you both very dear.

E.O.S.



FIGURE 1: Plaque presented to Richard and Anita Barrett at the Seventh Annual IAOM Convention in Chicago, Illinois, on June 24, 1979.