Commentary

President's Message: Reflection

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Suggested Citation

Winchell, B. (1983). President's Message: Reflection. *International Journal of Orofacial Myology*, 9(1), 4.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52010/ijom.1983.9.1.1>

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As my term of office comes to a close, I am led, naturally, to a time of reflection, of things remembered, times past.

It has been a very full two years, crammed with things to do, places to go, and people to see. That seems to have been the order of things, plus the never-ending task of trying to get through the unshrinkable mound of correspondence on my desk. I've learned a few valuable lessons in dealing with people and situations; some have been unpleasant and extremely frustrating, others have positively renewed my faith in the basic human traits of kindness and understanding. I would like to think I have grown in these last two years from the experience and challenge of the Presidency. As an individual, I feel that the experience has sharpened my perceptions and understanding; as a professional, my horizons have been vastly broadened due to the contact I've had with so many of you.

Words cannot describe the gratitude that I feel towards my Executive Board. *Nothing* would have been accomplished without them! All of them participated on the fullest level, and I had their total support in every aspect of Association business. Within a month of assuming office, we faced our most serious financial crisis to date. The Board took it on like pros, decided on a course of action, followed through, and today the IAOM treasury has record assets! This was but one of many outstanding achievements by this remarkable group of people to whom I will be eternally grateful.

The reorganization of the business aspects of our Journal by Dick Barrett has perhaps been the greatest single achievement in the last two years. With the dedication and determination that is characteristic of everything Dick does, he established our Journal finally as the profit-making venture it was meant to be. This took months of wading through the most tedious sorts of information, of patiently sorting, correcting, and tying up details – a process that would have left most of us fleeing to desperation – then coming up with a realistic business approach to the publishing and disbursement of the Journal.

How can I just say a simple "Thank you" to all these wonderful people? They have represented the Association well and faithfully; I am forever in their debt.

Finally, it is time to say goodbye. I am looking forward to seeing our projects in action and setting sights on new ones. I know I speak for all of the present officers in pledging our full efforts to aid and assist John Howland and the new Executive Board in their future endeavors.

GOOD LUCK AND GOD SPEED!

Becky Winchell