Recollections of seasons past and present

By David L. Hoexter, DMD, FACD, FICD, Editor in Chief

Reflections this time of year may evoke a simulacrum of dental meetings with innovations, such as the presentation of new techniques (revived and modernized from dental cosmos publications) or new again computerized mechanisms to treat patients.

Perhaps it may evoke the excitement of seeing our kibh and colleagues once again, while laughing over past experiences. Usually, large gatherings of dentistry are destined to place in large, new convention centers. We may recall previous meetings held in large hotels, warmer and more personal, and reminiscent of some personal history.

Now, large dental meetings command large convention halls, acquiring more economic support. These convention centers have different size rooms that are adaptive to different crowds, computerized luxuries that detail all that we need to know without asking questions, and details of where and who will be presenting, and which group is actually meeting and at what time. Still, they are impersonal and all-consuming.

I inquire, while reading the myriad lists of organizations at our meeting, “Where did all of these initials come from?” Societies, study clubs and state organizations — state ones next to national, adjacent to international, with so many initials.

While the daylight disappears earlier, there is a slight coolness in the air, and the excitement of seeing friends grows once again, I think of hugging a classmate, a teacher, a lost colleague, and it brings a smile as a leaf starts to descend.

The article “Alphabet Soup” I had written previously with enthusiastic receptio, it is being republished in this edition and perhaps will be published annually until the oral rift dental meeting inundates our dental assemblies.

Alphabet soup

Proposed: Colorful communications

By David L. Hoexter, DMD, FACD, FICD, Editor in Chief

A dilemma. We now have so many dental groups that we have almost run out of letters to designate them. As group after group abbreviates its name, we are at a loss to tell one from another without a scorecard. Either we need a new alphabetical language or more exotic sounding dental organizations with as yet, unused letters.

History relates its alphabet beginnings to Mesopotamia, where early transcribers used carved lines on a ball, or gourd-like container. These scratches of lines became the beginnings of written communication.

Flashing forward to mobile communications of today, where time pressures have abbreviated words, and we have a lingo all of its own. Abbreviating is a modern necessity.

To begin with, you cannot tweet — under twittering rules — over a certain word, has anyone ever seen a maxim? Everyone is in a rush — over shoulder.” Everyone is in a rush — over shoulder.” Everyone is in a rush — over shoulder.” Everyone is in a rush — over shoulder.” Everyone is in a rush — over shoulder.”

But to where? Tired thumbs? And computer communication, an implant group, as compared to the Academy of Osteointegration, which would be for Alph Omega, a dental fraternity group. Also, we would know that AAP represents the American Academy of Periodontics, which would not be confused with the AAP, or the American Association of Prosthodontists. Unfortunately, unless we have a color chart, we will just be confused, but it will be much more colorful.

This is only a suggestion, and any thoughts or other solutions would be received and considered for publication as well. There is an obvious problem. Let us communicate and help correct it.

To conclude, Rodney Dangerfield, the famous comedian, once described his son eating alphabet soup that his wife, a horrible cook, had made. The boy separated the letters to spell “HELP!” Let’s help our profession abbreviate with colorful understanding. O.C.