

IFEA Immediate Past-President report : Dr Alan Nerwich

It has been an honour to serve as IFEA President for the past two years. As my presidency comes to an end, I reflect on my 12-year journey with IFEA, realizing that a presidency is defined by the legacy one leaves throughout their entire tenure.

When I first joined IFEA as the Oceania Regent in 2012, the organization was far from the digital organization it now is. Most business was conducted via post, bank cheques, and other analogue means. The leaders at the time had realized that many governance issues needed review.

During my time as the Oceania Regent on the BOD and as IFEA transitioned to a paperless organization, I was given the task of rewriting the WEC guidelines and updating our By-Laws which finally were passed during my tenure as IFEA secretary on the Executive committee.

During my time on the Executive Committee (EC), I realized that there was no legal protection for the Board of Directors (BOD) nor for the EC, and no formal contract arrangements for the World Endodontic Congress (WEC). Thankfully, we now have an insurance policy safeguarding our officers and a legal contract for the WEC which were both finalized during my term as IFEA president.

During my time on the Executive committee, we initiated the use of a secretariat in India to assist with organizational matters and ensure smooth transitions within the BOD and EC. Our website has been updated and continues to improve, and we have established a social media presence on Facebook and YouTube.

The journey, however, was not without challenges. Seven years ago, we lost contact with our treasurer, leading to significant financial difficulties. It took considerable dedication from our Executive Team, notably Drs Catherine Ricci, Elisabetta Cotti, Mark Wotzke and Patrick Taylor to reorganize our accounts, regain access to our funds and implement systems to prevent such issues in the future.

Another major challenge was the COVID-19 pandemic, which occurred during Dr. Cathy Ricci's leadership. The WEC in India was postponed and eventually held as a highly successful online conference, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Dr. Gopi Krishna and the organizing team. This experience not only demonstrated our resilience but also strengthened our global communication and collaboration, enhancing IFEA's relevance and influence worldwide.

During my presidency, we introduced World Endodontic Day, celebrated annually on October 16th, to promote endodontics and the importance of saving teeth. This initiative, conceived by Dr. Gopi Krishna, was a resounding success, with over 68,000 views for the inaugural online symposium. We look forward to continuing this tradition.

Our membership has now grown to over 45 countries confirming our status as the true Global endodontic group with a promising and exciting future.

Legend of Nerwich's picture: Immediate Past-President Alan Nerwich and Current IFEA President Elisabetta Cotti