

Celebrating the LLSR with Dr. Edward Ward

Out of 37,000 dentists in the Academy of General Dentistry, only 154 members have achieved the Lifelong Learning & Service Recognition (LLSR) since its inception in 2005. The 154th LLSR recipient is our very own Dr. Edward Ward.

The LLSR is presented only to AGD members who have gone above and beyond earning the association's highest honor of Mastership. To accomplish this recognition, Dr. Ward completed at least 1,600 hours of continuing dental education in 16 different dental disciplines and at least 100 hours of dental-related volunteer service.

Dr. Ward graduated from the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry in 1977 and currently practices dentistry in Portland. In addition to the AGD, Dr. Ward is a member of the American Dental Association, the Oregon Dental Association, the National Dental Association, the Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the Multnomah Dental Society, the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Society of Children's Storybook Writers and Illustrators. Additionally, he serves as a board member at both Carrington College and Anthem College, as well as an adjunct professor at Portland Community College. Dr. Ward and his wife, Barbara Diane, have two children, Edward E. Ward Jr. and Kelli Elizabeth.

Why did you want to become a dentist?

After receiving a bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, I realized that interacting with people was important to me. I found laboratory research very repetitive and uninspiring. Dentistry provided an avenue for self-expression, creativity, interacting with the public, and contributing to the health and wellbeing of others.

Why did you join this organization?

Dr. Bill Howard recommended my joining the OAGD. Unaware of all the benefits the OAGD provides to its members, I initially joined to keep track of my CE hours. Now I understand that Dr. Howard, when he recommended becoming a member of OAGD, had true concern for my success, happiness, wellbeing, and sense of fulfillment as a dentist.

Why did you start pursuing the AGD Awards – Fellowship, Mastership and LLSR?

I firmly believe that Goals and Goalsetting are important in establishing direction: spiritually, economically, educationally, etc. Fortunately, I was able to stay true to the course in reaching these goals. As a benefit of challenging the awards by completing courses in varied dental disciplines, made available by OAGD, I can confidently deliver a broader scope of services to my patients.

Why should other dentists pursue their LLSR?

I guess the saying is, "the only things certain are death and taxes", however, some say that change is another certainty. As individuals, we change, as dentists, the profession changes, in

response to economic, political, and environmental forces; therefore pursuing the LLSR award over a lifetime is a good way to stay in touch and remain connected with the new developments in dentistry and society.

What advice can you offer new dentists facing financial challenges that might hinder their ability to seek more CE and these various achievements of FAGD, MAGD, and LLSR? Essentially was it worth the investment of time and money? Does it pay off in terms of ROI? Or is the pay off more personal/intangible only? Your specific insights appreciated too on this topic.

I recommend dentists take time to examine a complete fee schedule or the list of procedures found in the CDT procedure manual and truthfully determine how many of the potential services are actually provided in their offices. Is the reason these services are lost to the customers/patients due to the lack of knowledge of the dentist? Do we need more customers/patients or an increase in our prices to provide for the financial wellbeing of our practice or do we need the ability to diagnose and provide ethical treatment? The OAGD supports dentists in obtaining the knowledge and skills needed for successful careers. The OAGD not only provides avenues for the development of dentists as clinical experts, but also offers dentists leadership development. This leadership development transfers to community leadership as well.

Why is continuing education important to you?

I am an admirer of G.V. Black and he is my role model. I recommend a URL to encourage you in your pursuits: [http:// beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/dental/articles/Black_Schewe.html](http://beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/dental/articles/Black_Schewe.html)

What has been your most rewarding CE course?

As a recipient of the LLSR, I have had greatly rewarding CE courses, however, the places where the courses were held are the most memorable as Beijing, China, ADA headquarters twice in Chicago, New Orleans five times, Hawaii, Detroit, Las Vegas, Jacksonville, FL, Atlanta, GA, and on and on.

How long have you been in private practice?

I have been in private practice 31 years. Next year I will become a Lifetime Member of the American Dental Association.

Do your patients know you were an FAGD, MAGD and now an LLSR?

The awards are prominently displayed in the reception area in my dental office and also can be seen on my website: drwardinterstatedental.com The Oregon AGD would like to congratulate Dr. Ward on achieving his LLSR. If you want more information about the LLSR, please contact Jessica at 503.228.6266 or jessica@oragd.org



Dr. Ward receives his LLSR at the conclusion of his Predictable Restorable Study Club from his Cheryl DeWood with her husband, Gary DeWood instructor, Kevin Kwiecien, DMD, FAGD



Dr. Ward and brother Hilton Ward - Fossil, Oregon - Northwest Medical Teams