



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
United States Section

July 26, 2010

Dear Regent:

If you were at our recent meeting in Denver, you know that the Board of Regents had lively discussions about what needs to be done to improve our membership situation. If you were unable to attend the meeting, please visit the website and login to members only to see the minutes. During the 2 hours that the Board met projects were proposed to increase the value of ICS membership and I personally made a recommendation intended to motivate all Regents to actively recruit colleagues to join the College.

Over the years, we have heard many stories of how certain Regents have been successful in recruiting their colleagues. The bottom line though, is personal contact works. While we are all very busy, we must find the time to speak with our colleagues and tell them about ICS. The main responsibility of a Regent is member recruitment and this is what has been proven to work. Members recruited by other members are far more likely to remain affiliated with the College and this is what we need.

During the meeting I proposed a project entitled, "Drive to 125." The concept is simple – if we have approximately 60 Regents and each recruits 2 new members, then 125 should be a reasonable goal over the next 12 to 24 months. In recent years recruitment by Regents has been dismal and this trend needs to change.

Participation in the project is also simple – all you need to do is send an email or fax to ICS Headquarters listing the names and contact information for at least 5 colleagues and a special letter of invitation will be sent on your behalf to these individuals. Of course there is a little more involved than that, you must also make the effort to contact these individuals yourself and let them know the invitation is coming and that the College provides valuable resources and opportunities. This combination will yield the results we are seeking with 2 out of 5 being a reasonable goal to achieve.

In exchange for your efforts, all recruiters will be listed on the website in the new Regent's Corner and given recognition for their efforts. The top three recruiters will also receive a complimentary ticket to next year's Gala Banquet in Portland where they will be recognized for their efforts. Finally, the top recruiter will also receive the "Regent of the Year" award. This award has traditionally been given to a Regent that has demonstrated participation and leadership through recruitment, but over the past several years has not been awarded due to lack of activity. I hope this will change in the coming months.

I encourage each Regent to become more active in their recruitment efforts and strive to be the next Regent of the Year. You should feel free to contact Headquarters staff and seek their assistance to make our membership goals a reality. I am including a list of Talking Points that may be used when speaking to colleagues. Don't forget – personal contact works and is necessary to let your colleagues know how valuable ICS Fellowship can be.

Good luck and I look forward to hear of the progress we will make to increase our membership.

Sincerely,

Uretz J. Oliphant, MD
Chair, Board of Regents
United States Section - International College of Surgeons