

**Gregory Wright, DDS, FAACD**

**A) Why am I applying for this position?** Because it is my time to serve. I have been asked numerous times in the past to consider running for the EC, and this is a good time for me to do so. The Academy is at a period where strong, level leadership is needed for our academy to survive. I think that I am well suited to assist our academy during this time. I have no ego. I am not running because I have the need to be the President of our academy as a part of my life accomplishment. I am doing this purely to serve the academy that I am invested in, and that I love.

**B) What is your vision for the future of the AACD?** The academy needs to survive the difficult period it is in, focus on increasing membership and member value, increase relevance in our profession, and seek out alternative sources of revenue. My vision is for our academy to thrive again, and I think we can.

**C) Have you served on boards in the past? If so, what have you learned?** I have served on boards in my church, and with the AACD. Currently I serve on a board for a charitable dental clinic as well. I have learned through this experience that a board can be focused and get a lot done, or a board can be split, have conflict with in, be filled with drama and accomplish nothing. I have observed the ABCD in our academy function well over several years, and I have observed our BOD sometimes have difficulty seeing the forest for the trees. I see no reason why a new culture cannot be fostered with the BOD, such that it becomes a board that is desirable to serve on. There is no reason the BOD can't function as smoothly and efficiently as the ABCD. It just requires a culture shift.

**D) We are interested in your leadership style and skills. What could we expect?** An honest straight forward approach. No drama. No personal agenda, or hidden agenda. A delegator, not a micro manager. I feel that if you put good people in places to succeed, equip them, give them expectations and a task to do, you should expect them to get the task done. It is the same with the AACD staff. They do not, should not need micromanaging from the board.

**E) Tell us about your accomplishments and approach to fulfilling goals.** I have served on many committee's and the BOD. I have always completed the task assigned in the time frame it was needed. In some cases, I have done most of

the work in order to get the task done. I do work well with others, but if others are not engaged, I will move on, sharing the result.

**F) How might I balance friendships when policy or ethical issues create such conflict?** Friends are friends. You can

agree or disagree and at the end of the day you should still be friends. I currently serve on the board with some who I occasionally disagree, but that does not mean that I am not friends with them. And the decision that the board makes, whether I agree or disagree, is a decision of the board and all board members should stand behind that decision.

**G) What do I bring that is unique or distinctive? How will I make a difference?**

I bring the ability to think and act in a calm, unemotional way. I can present myself and my opinions in a friendly not threatening, respectful manner. I can see the big picture, and to see how the results of our decisions impact the future. In my time with the academy, I hope that I have earned the respect of my peers, and the academy staff. I feel I have a great working relationship with both.

**H) Where do my interests and expertise support the advancement of the AACD Strategic plan and align with the academy's core purpose?**

The overall theme of the strategic plan focuses on supporting the professional and fostering leadership. Supporting the professional involves increasing our brand, retaining and increasing our membership, keeping our scientific session relevant and profitable, increasing awareness and the desire of our credential within the professions and among consumers. All of these supports the academy mission statement and core purpose. Where do I fit in? I love our academy, as we all do. I will use my personal and professional skill to maintain and advance all of the above, as we as a academy can. I do not have a magic wand, but I do feel that if we can maintain status quo in a time in which our academy is bleeding members and money, the recognition of specialty status will give the academy a tremendous boost. We just need to be good stewards until that status is awarded.

**I) How can I see myself relating to the membership and forming a bridge between the board and our members?** I am

just a member, no more special or entitled than the new member. I believe in being approachable and relatable to all. I will strive to do so. The best way to form a bridge between membership and the board is to change the culture of the

board to one that makes the board more approachable and in tune with the members. The board serves the membership and should always serve the members. The board sometimes fails to remember that. Having absolutely no personal or professional agenda, perhaps I can help keep that in focus.

**J) What unique ideas do you have to build and grow our membership in today's climate.** Our academy was originally formed on relationships, and I feel that is what will always make us unique. We as leaders should always engage our members. But that is not a new idea, and I am not sure that there are any new ideas out there. But perhaps we can better implement old ideas or apply old concepts in a new way. I have some ideas and as a board member have voiced such to Barb and the EC. But ideas are just that without implementation. Perhaps we need to focus on what we do well and make it even better.

**K) Leadership training?** Yes, with the BOD and the AACD. Training as well with in my practice as administered through Smart Training.

**L) What else should we know in order to consider you as an applicant?** I have served the academy well in the past, and I will do so in the future. I am seeking this position for the right reason, the only reason, which is to serve our academy.

M) I have had no adverse action taken against me by our board, and there is nothing pending.

N) I have no criminal record, no charges pending or under investigation.