



In this issue, the ABPD shares with you an article by California Society of Pediatric Dentistry Past President Lonnie R. Lovingier. For those members not yet board certified, we encourage you to call the ABPD at (800) 410-1250 or visit www.abpd.org. Plan to initiate the certification process this year. This is a worthwhile experience that will benefit you, your patients and your practice!*

David L. Good

ABPD President

EVERYONE BENEFITS WHEN A PEDIATRIC DENTIST
ACHIEVES BOARD CERTIFICATION

by

Lonnie R. Lovingier

John DeLorme has been a wonderful partner. And now, he raised our practice up another notch. He recently passed the site visit and achieved board certification. As the editor of this *Bulletin*, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate John and tell everyone how proud he makes us all.

In the November issue of *Pediatric Dentistry Today*, Robert Frank discussed his experience and the merits of becoming board certified. His story sounded like most of ours. This office team and I have always taken pride in providing excellent professional care for our patients. Why did we need to prove this to anyone? The carrot wasn't very big. Also, there were some philosophical differences and a little defensiveness too. But mostly, procrastination allowed something else more pressing at the time to take priority. Board certification was not at the top of my priority list; and earning diplomate status has eluded me through the years. I encouraged John to accomplish this before his family drew heavily on his time and allowed complacency to set in through the years. We are glad that he did.

True to his character, he rose above our expectations. With all the things we thought we did so well, he found ways for us to improve as he prepared for the office site visit. His effort to complete the board requirements definitely made us a better practice. This was an additional benefit to the already healthy partnership. Increasing the number of diplomats improves our pediatric dental organizations. The process refines us as pediatric dentists and staff. The improved procedures benefit our patients. By including the staff in the process, they too take pride and ownership in the accomplishment. Everyone gains a little more respect for each other. When we allow the system to work, it improves the practice and those of us who practice together as a team.

Most articles endorsing the certification process are written by those individuals who have become diplomates; that makes this endorsement different. I have learned from this experience that we should encourage all pediatric dentists to pursue this goal. I look forward to our third partner, Christian Lopez, becoming a diplomate; perhaps I can shake off the procrastination and join him, even in my late years.

Congratulations John!

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