

VFDJ

VALLEY FORGE DENTAL JOURNAL

SPRING 2010



Introduction to Change

2010 Valley Forge Dental Conference Photos

Updates from the PDA & ADA Trustees

Volunteering to Treat Chippewa Indians in North Dakota

The Official Publication of the Second District Valley Forge Dental Association of Pennsylvania

A SPECIAL ONE-DAY COURSE FOR THE ENTIRE DENTAL TEAM



Infection Control *Where are we today?*

Rella P. Christensen, RDH, PhD

Today, as always, infection control is a product dependent discipline. Without masks, gloves, eye protection, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilizers, etc. that actually accomplish their intended purpose, control of infectious organism spread is impossible. No one wants to be sick, even if it isn't life threatening. This program gives the facts from the only lab that actually tests claims and efficacy of all types of infection control products.

This Course Will Cover -

- The products and practices most critical to effective infection control.
 - Test data demonstrating performance of the most efficacious products.
 - Mistakes and misunderstandings that jeopardize control of organism spread.

Course Objectives -

- Identify efficacious IC products in areas of most critical concern.
 - List problems with some popular IC products that negate their ability to protect clinicians and patients.
 - Provide the principles and practices of the aseptic technique.



RELLA P. CHRISTENSEN, RDH, PhD, is a co-founder of the *CRA Foundation*, a dental products testing institute, and has served as Chairman of its Board of Directors. Currently she is the team leader of *TRAC Research*, a non-profit institute dedicated to in-depth and long-term clinical studies of restorative materials, preventive dentistry, and dental caries.

Rella received her BS in Dental Hygiene from the University of Southern California, a PhD in physiology from Brigham Young University and an Honorary Doctorate from Utah Valley State University. For over 25 years she practiced dental hygiene and was a dental laboratory technician for 3 years. She founded the bachelor degree expanded function dental hygiene program at the University of Colorado, and served as its first director.

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VFDC is a recognized provider of continuing education activities as authorized by ADACERP ADA CERP[®] Continuing Education Program and AGD.

Doctors who are full participating members of the Lehigh Valley Hospital, Montgomery-Bucks and DKU continuing education courses will receive this course complimentary. DOCTORS MUST REGISTER THROUGH THEIR CE GROUP PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE. Lunch is included.

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STAFF PERSONS ATTENDING: (USE OFFICE STATIONERY FOR ADDITIONAL NAMES)

NAME _____ POSITION _____

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VFDJ VALLEY FORGE DENTAL JOURNAL

SPRING 2010



Attendees at lecture and on the exhibit floor at the 2010 Valley Forge Dental Conference

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ON THE COVER... Dr. Gordon Christensen speaks with a group of attendees at the Valley Forge Dental Conference, March 3, 2010.



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Advertising rates are available from, and all advertising materials and correspondence should be sent to Stickle Associates, P.O. Box 219, Bath, PA 18014. (610)837-6036. The Second District Valley Forge Dental Association of Pennsylvania reserves the right to refuse any advertisements for any reason.

Articles for publication may be sent directly to Dr. Tami Brady, 293 Watch Hill Rd., Exton, PA 19341. All material should be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5" x 11" paper. E-Mail: tsbradydmd@verizon.net .

Classified advertising should be sent directly to the Editor. Classified rates are \$35 for the first 50 words or less, 50¢ for each additional word.

The Journal is published three times a year: Winter, Spring & Fall. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Association, nor does the appearance of advertisements imply endorsement by the Association.



President's Message

Dr. George (Rusty) Bullock
bullock.george@verizon.net

There has never been a better time than now to be a member of organized dentistry. There are outstanding benefits to being a member of the Tripartite of organizations comprised of the American Dental Association (ADA), Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) and the State District Associations. Just like me, I'm sure you're proud of being a member of these professional dental associations who are committed to safeguarding the public oral health and maintaining high ethical standards and creating opportunities for professional advancement. Most importantly, at each level these organizations lead a unified profession of dentistry by advocating for issues involving education, development of standards, membership, regulation and legislation. The power of a unified dental profession is found in the strength of its membership numbers. With over 70% of the dentists nationwide belonging to organized dentistry, the representatives of the ADA, PDA and the Second District Dental Association find their initiatives and message is readily received, especially in the legislative halls of power. Why? These contacts realize that when these organizations "speak to the issues" they represent a collective voice for a very large measure of the profession of dentistry. Sometimes, numbers speak louder than words.

Our district, the Second District, is the largest of the ten geographic districts that make up the Pennsylvania Dental Association. The Second District represents the combined membership of three local Dental Societies: Chester/Delaware, Lehigh Valley and Montgomery/Bucks. The ongoing activities and programs sponsored by the Second District are designed to meet the needs of the approximately 1,500 member dentists.

During this administrative year the Executive Board of the association is focusing its efforts on improving, developing and implementing programs related to the following committees:

Government Relations Committee:

Chairperson: Dr Linda Himmelberger - himmelberger@msn.com

Access to Care Committee:

Chairperson: Dr Bernadette Logan - TbLogan@bellatlantic.net

Membership Committee:

Chairperson: Dr Karin Brian - kdbdds@verizon.net

Communications Committee:

Chairperson: Dr Bruce Terry - pullpulp@aol.com

During the course of my term as President I will better inform you regarding the mission and membership value provided by each of the committees listed above. I would like to begin by focusing on the highly effective efforts of the Government Relations Committee.

The strong "winds of change" are now buffeting the profession of dentistry. Just like me you may be concerned about keeping up with all of the changes being brought about from within the field of dentistry; from recent advances in dental research, emerging technologies and new dental materials and clinical techniques. However, I am much more concerned

with the changes being generated by forces outside of the profession such as: marketing and media driven treatment plans and, most importantly, regulatory and legislative initiatives that will govern how you practice Dentistry now and in the future.

We all serve as stewards of the profession we revere so much and, as such, we have a vested interest in doing our best to shape a positive future for dentistry. You begin to do your part just by being a member of organized dentistry and, thereby, supporting one of the most recognized and appreciated membership benefits: the ADA, PDA and the members of the Second District Government Relations Committee serving as your advocate in the legislative arena. You have a "seat at the table of change" in Harrisburg and Washington, DC because you have lobbyists, staff and committed volunteer dentists advocating for issues that impact you as a health care provider and the public that you serve.

On Tuesday, June 7, 2010 your colleagues from the Second District visited the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg during the PDA's annual lobby "Day on the Hill". They met legislators on both sides of the aisle from both the House of Representatives and the Senate to discuss the PDA's Oral Health Care Agenda. Meeting face to face with legislators and their staff "puts a smiling face" on the PDA's Oral Health Care Agenda and, it is personal contact that is the most effective way to impart information that is vital to the future of the dental profession.

It seems that legislators respond best when approached by constituents from the geographic areas they represent. It is for this reason that the State, District and Local Government Relations Committees are all working hard to identify and provide training for dentists to serve as legislative contacts in their home area. Perhaps, you could serve in this role. By establishing a grass-roots network of constituent dentists to attend this annual "Day on the Hill", we build relationships with our legislators and, provide them with the names of the dentists who could serve as a resource regarding oral health issues in their home district.

Often the constituent dentists will share the outcome of their experiences in Harrisburg with their family of patients and provide them with some insight on how dental issues that affect the public are received and acted upon by their legislator.

Dentists who truly understand that the future of their profession will be affected by the action taken by elected officials respond by joining and financially supporting the Pennsylvania Dental Association Political Action Committee (PadPac). Common sense leads them to believe that a small investment in PadPac can lead to BIG dividends in the future of the profession by preserving and advancing the interests of the members of the PDA and the public they serve.

This past spring, 45 dentists from Second District took on the responsibility of representing all of the members of the Second District Dental Association when they went to Hershey, PA for the four day annual PDA House of Delegates Meeting. The goals of the meeting were achieved when delegations from throughout the state agreed upon issues related to PDA policy, governance of the organization and items to be placed on the PDA legislative agenda. There is always a lot to learn when dentists from throughout the Commonwealth get together to share their viewpoints regarding the future of our profession. Please contact the representatives from your local dental society

continued on page 4

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE. AREN'T YOU GLAD?

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Introduction To Change

Dr. Tami Brady

tsbradydmd@verizon.net

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Tamara Brady (Tami) and I am now the editor of this publication *The Valley Forge Dental Journal*. I am a local member of the Dental Society of Chester County and Delaware County where I have served since 1999 on various committees and on the Board of Governors. I was president of Chester/Delaware in 2008-2009 and have been on several committees for the 2nd District Dental Society and worked for several years for the Valley Forge Dental Conference.

I accepted this position, as VFDJ editor, with trepidation, but was assured by those who preceded me in this job, that it would not be difficult and I would have their guidance and advice. Now, on a brilliantly sunny day in early April I am pondering what to say to the 1500 members of the 2nd District when an email caught my interest. Mattel, the maker of dozens of board games, was making a new version of their word game, *Scrabble*. There seemed to be outrage on the web because this new version would allow proper nouns to be used to garner points. *Scrabble* fans worldwide posted their feelings on Twitter

with responses such as, “scandalous”, “reckless”, “wrong, wrong, wrong”, and “now they can sell to the stupid” was posted on the message board of the British newspaper, *The Times*.

I am relieved that the Valley Forge Dental Society website does not currently have a message board. I would hate to see posts of “reckless” or “wrong, wrong, wrong” in response to my first editorial. However, I represent a change to the journal, which has seen only 3 editors since the initial issue in 1995. The previous editors, Dr. Richard Galeone, Dr. Bruce Terry and Dr. Jeff Sameroff have invented the wheel, so to speak, as they were members before the first issue was released. I became a Second District member in 1998, and this journal was in existence for several years at that time. I never knew a time when we did not receive the meeting notices, and presidential messages from a timely publication. I hope to keep the wheel rolling with added interesting ideas and material. At first there will be little change, but my dream is to have input from the members on items they would like to see added to this publication. We

will begin to add more information from each of the 3 local components of 2nd District and you will be aware of what your neighbors are accomplishing. With the help of our PDA trustee, Dr. Bernie Dishler, and our ADA trustee, Dr. Charlie Weber, we will keep you informed of what is going on at the state and national organizations. We are lucky to have information in this issue about Dr. Bob Singer’s work in the Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility last summer. I welcome interesting write-ups from our 2nd District members who do exciting extra curricular activities and want to share with us their world outside the microcosm of everyday practice. Feel free to email me with any suggestions you have to include in future editions of the journal.

The editor’s computer has changed location, but will continue to provide you with the information of what is going on in and around the Valley Forge Dental Association. I am happy to announce that Hasbro, the maker of *Scrabble* in the United States, will not be releasing *Scrabble Trickster*. It will only be available in the UK starting July 2010. I however will be behind at the Editor’s computer for the foreseeable future. Please let me provide the change you desire to our journal by contacting me with your thoughts. I am happy to serve and will consider any requests.

President’s Message...continued from page 2

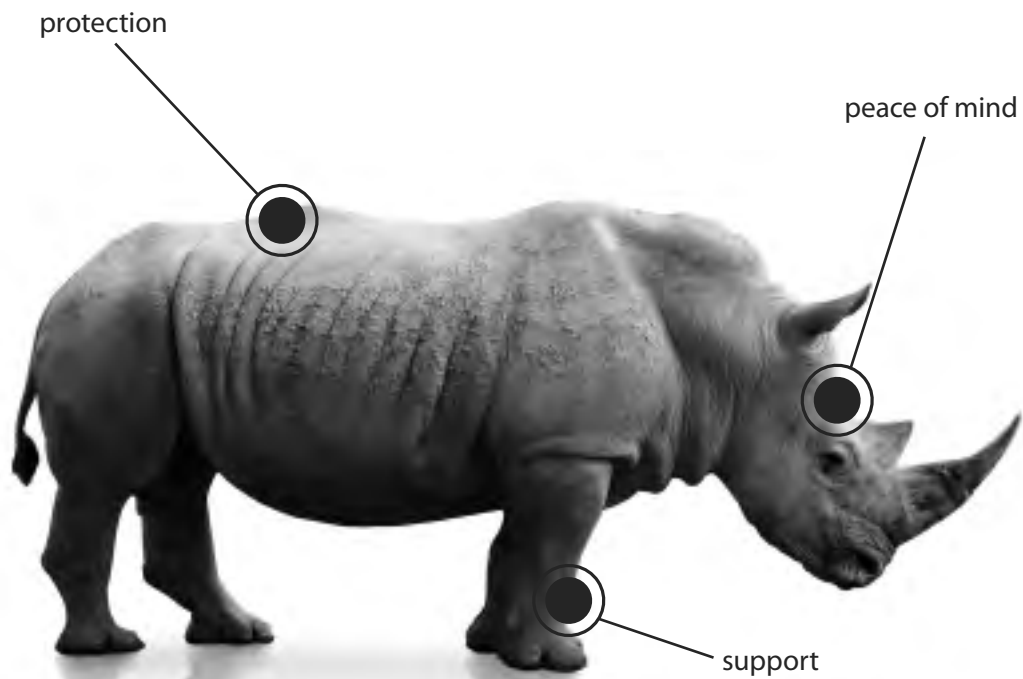
listed on page 12 if you desire further information regarding this years PDA Annual Meeting or have recommendations regarding services or programs that can be put on the agenda for consideration at next years meeting.

The Second District Valley Forge Dental Association takes pride in providing excellent continuing education courses for member dentists and their entire dental team. Having an opportunity in our local area for the entire staff to learn together and enjoy a day out of the office is a rewarding experience for all involved.

This coming fall on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 the association will sponsor a course on: Infection Control - where are we today?, presented by Rella Christensen, RDH, PhD. This fast paced day of learning will get everyone in the office “on the same page” regarding which products and practices are most critical to effective infection control. Mark your calendars now to attend this very informative continuing education course. Visit www.VFDC.org for additional information and to register.

Second District, in conjunction with the three local dental societies, is on the move creating a brighter future for our profession. As a member driven organization we are always seeking your input regarding matters that effect how you practice dentistry. There has never been a better time to be an actively involved member of the Second District. Options are available that require only small commitments of your time. I believe we can match your interests, talents and experience to a volunteer opportunity so we can ensure your success and enjoyment. Please contact me at Bullock.George@verizon.net if you would like to join the “Second District Team” - I know your help will make a difference.


In closing, I would like to thank you for the support, encouragement and opportunity afforded to me by the members of the Second District Dental Association as the incoming president for 2010/2011. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions regarding your District Association.



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FULL DAY CE EVENTS

LeHigh Valley Health Network 2010/11 Continuing Education Program

Contact Pat Atmo 610-969-4839
or Dr. Charles Kosteva 610-856-6999

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Linda Miles
Inside the Consultant's File & Two Sides of the Management Coin

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Dr. DeWitt Wilkerson - *Occlusion*

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Dr. Jack Turbyfill - *Full Dentures*

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Dr. Cyril Evian - *Perio & Implants*

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Dr. Gordon Christensen - *The Christensen Bottom Line 2011*

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Mr. Hugh Doherty - *If You're So Smart Then Why Aren't You Rich?*

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Dr. Dennis Tarnow - *Implants*

DKU 2010-2011

Contact Dr. Barry Cohen - DKUdental@aol.com
4750 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Thursday, November 11, 2010

DeWitt Wilkerson, DMD, Dawson Academy, FL
Functional Occlusion

Friday, December 10, 2010

Christian Stappert, DDS, MS, PhD, NYU University
Ceramics in Dentistry

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

Gordon Christensen, DDS, Provo, UT - *Dentistry Update*

Friday, April 15, 2011

Dennis Tarnow, DDS, Columbia University - *Implant Esthetics*

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mark Murphy, DDS, Michigan
The Art, Science and Business of Dentistry

Montgomery/Bucks Full Day CE 2010-2011

All of the programs will be held at Normandy Farms
Conference Center in Blue Bell.
RSVP to Tom Howley @ mbdsdr@comcast.net

Friday, October 15, 2010 - Kelly Schwarz

Friday, November 19, 2010 - Dr. John Burgess

Friday, January 21, 2011 - Dr. Christian Stappert

Friday, April 15, 2011 - Drs. Woodell & Pissaro

Friday, May 20, 2011 - Dr. Nick Elian (*tentative*)



EVENING CE PROGRAMS

Chester/Delaware 2010-2011 General Meetings

Locations TBA, Cash Bar 6:00PM, Dinner Meeting 7:00PM
Contact Dr. Dan Daley, 610-623-4211.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Dr. Bruce Terry - *Endodontics*

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Dr. John Hayes - *Orthodontics*

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Dr. Steve Jeffries
Caries Detection, Intervention Products & Technologies

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Dr. Paul Goodman - *Implants*

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Dr. Alan Stark - *Xerostomia*

Montgomery/Bucks Evening Speakers

All meetings are held at:
Normandy Farms, Route 202 & Morris Road, Blue Bell
6:30PM cocktails, 7:00PM dinner, 8:00PM speaker

Monday, September 27, 2010 - Dean Kinane

Monday, October 25, 2010 - Dr. Joel Lauderbach

Monday, November 29, 2010 - Dr. Steinberg

Monday, February 28, 2011 - Dr. John Martin

Monday, April 25, 2011 - Dr. D. Walter Cohen

Monday, May 16, 2011 - Derrick Pitts

Second District Board Meetings

Board Meetings begin at 7:00PM at the Valley Forge Radisson
Contact Betty Dencler at bjdencler@aol.com

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Saturday, June 26, 2010
The First "Kornberg School of Dentistry Smile Symposium":
The Impact of the Teeth and Smile on Facial Esthetics
Program Director: Dr. Joseph R. Greenberg
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ronald Goldstein
with Drs. Ackerman, Greco, and Greenberg

Contact: Dr. Ronald D. Bushick or Nicole Carreño
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The 2010 Valley Forge Dental Conference





Thank You to Our 2010 Exhibitors

The Second District Valley Forge Dental Conference would like to thank the following companies for exhibiting during the 2010 VFDC - March 3-4-5

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 PARAGON DENTAL PRACTICE TRANSITION
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 PLAN MECA USA, INC.
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Johnson & Johnson	Tastefully Simple
La Prairie Cosmetics	Uncle Ernie's Cookies
Lehigh Valley Dental Society	Valley Forge Convention Bureau
Medical Protective	Valley Forge Convention Center & Radisson Hotel
Montgomery Bucks Dental Society	Wireworx

Award Recipients

2nd District honors its reward recipients at the Presidential Dinner during the Valley Forge Dental Conference. Dr. Charlie Weber received the Valley Forge Dental Conference Award. Dr. Linda Himmelberger received the 2nd District Valley Forge Dental Association Recognition Award. There were 2 recipients of the Humanitarian Award, each receiving a plaque and \$500; St. Luke's Hospital Marathon Dental Days and Lehigh Valley Health Network Mobile Dental Suite-Miles of Smiles.



Dr. John Meci presents plaque to Dr. Charlie Weber



Dr. John Meci presents plaque to Dr. Linda Himmelberger



St. Luke's Hospital Marathon Dental Days



Lehigh Valley Health Network Mobile Dental Suite-Miles of Smiles.

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Valley Forge Dental Conference Table Clinic Presentations 2010

The Valley Forge Dental Conference hosted table clinic presentations on Friday, March 5th, 2010 in the exhibition hall. This year there were 3 pairs of dental hygiene participants. First prize of \$100.00 was awarded to Leslie Reilly and Marianne Schaffer of Manor College Hygiene. Their topic was "ZAP VAP". Andre Siriaurkaite and Jonilua Barone, also of Manor College presented "Chemotherapy, Oral Health and the Dental Hygienist". Jennifer Paugh and Alisha Christren of Northampton Community College Hygiene presented "Tongue Cleaning". Participants gave a 10 minute presentation to the judges, including Dr. Larry Montgomery III, Dr. Bruce Terry and Dr. Cary Limberakis. The hygiene students remained for the morning and then were guests for lunch.



ZAP VAP presentation by Leslie Reilly

2010 VFDC Table Clinic participants and contest judges.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank the dentists, hygienists, assistants, and staff members who donated their expertise and dental supplies to provide dental care and education for indigent children on Monday, May 10th at the office of Dr. Barry Cohen in Drexel Hill. We are grateful for the generosity of volunteer dentists Lilyana Angelova, Tami Brady, Dick Clark (o.s.), Barry Cohen, Theresa Devine, Linda Himmelberger, Joe Leonetti (o.s.), Bernie Logan, Adrianna Mora, Merle Saldivar, and Robert Spennato.

Drs. Behnam; Cerasoli & Wenger; Giacalone; Granite, Siegal, & Cwyk; Grzybicki; Gutsche; Hattler; Levin; McGurk & Himmelberger; Nelson; Pepe; Pfeiffer; Recupero; Scanlon; Scharlock & Russo; Shipon; Sierakowski; Smedley; Summers; Swenda; Thrash; Woehling & Kim; and Zalis graciously supported our efforts with their kind gifts!

Thanks to your efforts our GKAS Program continues to provide dental care and education to children that would otherwise not receive this integral component of their health and well-being.

With gratitude,
Bernadette A. Logan, D.D.S.
Theresa A. Himmelberger, D.M.D.



Update from the PDA?

Dr. Bernie Dishler, Trustee
dishyork@aol.com

At this time of the year as the PDA prepares for its Annual Session it is probably a good time for your trustee to give you a State of the Association report. Get the teleprompters ready!

I will talk about the financial side, the membership numbers, government relations and other programs.

First, show me the money! I am pleased to report we finished the year under budget in expenses and we had a surplus of income over expenses. A few things accounted for that. Firstly, we were very concerned about how the economy would effect our member dentists and so we planned to spend less. Our staff and the Board of Trustees really went to town in cutting out expenses. When we meet we bring Trustees from all over the state and have to provide housing, etc. We are reducing the number of meetings by utilizing modern technology and having constant on-line discussions of relevant material that we used to hold a meeting about. Our investments, which are in pretty conservative vehicles, did not lose as much as others have lost and they have recovered nicely. Our reserves are about 9 months of expenses.

One way that you can help the PDA and yourself would be to allow PDAIS to give you quotes on your office insurance policies. They are saving many of our members money and at

the same time they are sponsoring a lot of programs for our locals and the PDA, so it really is win-win.

Membership has been an issue for us for many years and unfortunately it will be a concern well into the future. The average age of our members is 51.5 years. As these members age to retirement we will not be having an abundant number of dentists to replace them. The PA dental schools have fewer PA residents as students. This year Temple has reversed that trend a little by actively seeking PA residents. Thank Dean Ismael if you see him. But, one of our faults can be an advantage. Our market share of members is less than 70%. So, we have plenty of our colleagues who are not members. You all can be ambassadors. Invite one of your neighbors to a local society meeting. Let them see the collegiality and warmth one gets from associating with fellow dentists.

Your Association has been very active working with the State Legislature to try to improve the dental environment in PA. Right now we are trying to pass a bill to prevent insurance companies from putting caps on non-covered services. Elsewhere in this Journal is information on Lobby Day. We have also been working closely with the State Board of Dentistry. One of their latest achievements is passing a policy ruling that whitening of teeth is the practice of dentistry. They will soon be closing up the mall whitening centers, if they do not have dentists doing the treatment or supervising a qualified dental auxiliary.

I wish you a happy spring and please contact me by email at dishyork@aol.com if you have any questions about the PDA.

SECOND DISTRICT MEMBERS ATTEND PDA ANNUAL SESSION

The following Second District Members attended the 2010 Pennsylvania Dental Association House of Delegates Meeting on April 22-25, in Hershey, PA.

If you have any questions regarding PDA resolutions or actions please feel free to contact your representative.

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Dr. Douglas Filidore - *docdougmd@yahoo.com*
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Program information will be available on the website after August 1



Who's Steering the Ship?

Dr. Charles R. Weber, Third District Trustee
crweberdmd@comcast.net or weberc@ada.org

Dentistry has always been an entrepreneurial profession. The vast majority of us are small business owners who for many years have worked very hard to see that our patients receive optimal dental care. We are fortunate that the state allows us to govern ourselves through the network of state boards throughout the country. We've been able to decide on the proper course of education and set the standard of care for our profession and the public we serve.

We've become very complacent with this process and the boat is beginning to rock. Outside foundations and agencies are beginning to enter the arena. A recent report generated from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (Yes, the same company that gave us Sugar Pops and Frosted Flakes) thinks that we need to establish a new "midlevel" dental provider. They are suddenly concerned about the access to care issue. Access has become the buzz word in politics. It is interesting to note that states where Medicaid payments have been raised to 70% or more of actual fees have seen access issues virtually eliminated. Access to dentistry in Pennsylvania was ranked with an "F" by a recent study of the Pew Research Center. This situation has come about through no fault of the dental community. The blame is clearly cast on the legislature where, for years, our pleas for fluoridation have fallen on

deaf ears. Sealant program funding is almost nonexistent and inappropriate Medicaid fees have existed for years.


The proponents of "mid-level" providers may not have considered that in order to serve our patients responsibly, the education of "mid-level" providers may be just as expensive, and must be as just as demanding, as that of a dental student. Yes, a new economic model for care could be developed, but can we guarantee that these providers will practice in underserved areas.

At the present time, it is difficult for dental schools to fill all the needed faculty positions with qualified educators. I wonder from where these additional instructors will materialize? Who will supply the bricks and mortar to develop the training centers for the "mid-level" providers? In actuality, there can be no mid-level provider unless you have a low level provider and I have yet to see that classification. How many of our patients would like to be referred to a low level provider?

Dentists, in Pennsylvania, are reimbursed at the 53% percentile. In the majority of offices this percentage does not even cover overhead expenditures. In order to treat Medicaid patients, the average dentist would have to take a loss on each patient. It is not hard to understand why only 32% of Medicaid-enrolled children are receiving care. Do we need to endorse a mid-level

provider to care for children or could they be served by dentists utilizing the auxiliaries we have at the present time? When HB 602 is signed by the governor, EFDA's will be allowed to perform coronal polishing as well as apply fluoride varnish. This will allow us to treat more patients efficiently.

Dentistry has worked very hard to become a learned profession. Our education is at the very least an eight year curriculum after high school. It is important for the public and legislators to understand our rigid educational experience. How can that educational experience be condensed and still produce educated, well trained, professional individuals? Is this what the public really wants? The captain of the dental team must still be the dentist. Only the dentist is trained to the level where he can make decisions about and perform irreversible treatment safely. We have spent countless hours learning and enhancing our responsibilities.

In Malcolm Gladwell's Tipping Point, he points out that it actually takes very few people to start a movement. We must be vigilant because a movement is starting with many non-dental and governmental agencies. It is more important than ever to impress upon the legislators that we already have a successful oral health care system. Can it be improved? Of course it can but we just need the legislative tools from them to accomplish our mission. With their help, we can continue to provide quality care to our patients in the manner they are accustomed, that is with a well trained professional as the head of the dental team. 

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Volunteering to Treat Chippewa Indians in North Dakota

by Dr. Robert R. Singer



Dental Staff at the Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility, Dr. Bob Singer in on the right



Auxiliary staff at the Quentin N. Burdick facility

I spent two weeks in July volunteering to treat Native Americans on a reservation in North Dakota. When asked if I would consider ND I thought it would be a good experience and an opportunity to see some of the country I had never been to. I was in Belcourt ND on the Turtle Mountain Reservation of Chippewa Indians, 15 miles south of the Canadian border. The tribe has about 30,000 enrolled members with about 16,000 living on the reservation.

The Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care facility has 29 beds and 11 physicians providing general surgery, ENT surgery, obstetrics and has the only CAT scan in the area. The dental section is a completely modern 12 chair facility including digital x-ray and panorex. The chief dental officer is Dr Saunders Steiman, a Public Health oral surgeon who oversees a smooth running operation with a relaxed atmosphere. In addition to Dr Steiman the professional staff included another Public Health Officer, 3 civil service doctors and a part time contract doctor. The husband and wife team of Dr. Constance Wiener and Dr. Mike Wiener arrived for their tour of duty the same time I arrived for my two weeks. The auxiliary staff including Expanded Function Dental Assistants were all Native American. The hospital only treats Native Americans and they have to prove at least a 25% blood line.

The hospital is run by the Indian Health Service (IHS) which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

I saw a number of very poor mouths but also a surprising number of really nice

mouths. There is a strong emphasis on prevention with sealants, fluoride varnish, and home care instruction. The dentistry is not exotic, a lot of fillings, extractions, anterior endodontics, full dentures, and flippers. They were just starting to include posterior endodontics and were planning to do cast partials in the near future. Patients could be referred out for orthodontics, crowns and advanced surgery. The patients were sent 110 miles to Minot for this treatment and I believe some of this treatment had to be paid for individually. Of course much of the surgery was done in house with a surgical suite set up for Dr. Steiman. We were only scheduled one patient per hour but a couple of hours were set aside for emergencies which could be considerable. We were not scheduled on weekends.

I was impressed how everyone went out of their way with the best interest of the patients at heart and they really appreciated what was being done for them. For me it was a very rewarding and educational experience. I was able to travel and learn a lot more about Native Americans. It was something I would certainly consider doing again.

When I checked on the internet for restaurants in Belcourt, there were none listed which tells you a little about the town and the area. However, I found two or three restaurants with excellent food, especially the fish, within a 30 mile area and the food was very inexpensive. I went into Winnipeg for a day which was 160 miles away. I also visited a Minute Man Silo which was

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being dedicated as a museum. That was also 160 miles distant. The International Peace Garden which splits the border between North Dakota and Manitoba was nearby. The roads are empty, straight and flat and it was easy to put on the miles. I actually put just under 1500 miles on my rental car in the two weeks I was there. North Dakota is still Big Sky country like Montana and the sunsets and rolling fields of different crops were spectacular.

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Dr. Marie Scott receives certificate from Dr. Karin Brian celebrating 25 years of membership in organized dentistry.

25 & 50 Year Members

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Insurance Companies want to cap your fees on non-covered services

There are a few ways that you can help influence the third-party powers that affect the bottom line of your dental practice. The first thing you can do is pay your dues to organized dentistry. We pay lobbyists both on the state level and national level to get our message to decision makers in the Legislature and Congress. Our elected PDA and ADA leaders often accompany the lobbyists for dental expertise. Sometimes they need to have their message reinforced. We ask our members to send Internet messages to their local elected officials. All politics is local! We have purchased user-friendly software (CapWiz) that enables you to send this message in minutes. Does it work? We had the sponsor of a bill that would require all PA dentists to give out a brochure on Amalgam, withdraw his bill after we posted it on CapWiz. He said: "I didn't realize so many dentists felt this way!"

Now what else can you do? Make a personal visit. Oh, I know you are too busy to take a few hours out of your busy schedule to really have an effect on this unfair practice. We did our part to get Senator Ward and some of her colleagues to sponsor a bill prohibiting the capping of fees on

non-covered services. Now we have to make the Legislature see that we care and we actually speak for the 5000 member dentists.

On June 7th the PDA sponsored a Lobby Day in Harrisburg. On this day dentists from across the state visited Capitol Hill and spoke personally with senators and representatives. The issues discussed include, requiring insurers to cover anesthesia for children and special needs patients receiving dental care, increased funding for student loan forgiveness program, healthy beverages in schools that would prohibit schools from entering marketing contracts with soft drink companies, and community water fluoridation. All dentists can follow up with their representative or senator on these issues now to increase the impact we already made from Lobby Day. All information you need is available by contacting the PDA's central office. The outcome of personal contact can mirror the outcome of HB602 which passed the senate on April 14 allowing for expanded duties to EFDA's. Member/Legislator contact is the best means of educating on these issues that affect the profession and our patients.

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- Dr. Sam LowPeriodontics & Lasers

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011

- Dr. Richard WynnPharmacology
- Dr. John Olmsted.....Endodontic Participation Program
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