

SIXTH DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

**Annual Fall Executive Council Meeting
Thursday October 21, 2021, 6:30 pm
Hybrid Meeting
Tioga Golf Club Ballroom
151 Roki Blvd., Nichols, NY 13812**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President, Dr. Scott Noren.

Attendance:

In-Person (7): Pam Bouton (Immediate Past President), Scott Noren (President), Louis Giordano (V.P.), Marcus Spera (Secretary), Timothy Smith (Executive Director), Luis Mauleon, Jr., James Orcutt

Virtual (8): David Salomons (Treasure), James Galati (NYSDA President-Elect), Sonny Spera, Howard Warner, Kristin Clark-Lowell, Paul Hart, Payam Goudarzi, Betsey Clark-Fortier

NYSDA President-Elect, Dr. James Galati addressed the Executive Council:

- Licensing delays, used to be 4 weeks, now it takes 6 months
- membership decline
- New residential match program and brokering practice sales for members only as a means to boost membership
- Considering mentorship as a membership benefit
- Some new members may be nervous going to meetings (more applicable in larger districts)

Jim Orcutt Points:

- Concerned with cost of dental schools and debt of new graduates
- Used to have more insurance benefits
- Streamline licensure
- smoking cessation/ oral cancer course is a terrible program
- Recommends developing programs to increase dental auxiliaries such as hygiene and assisting
- Water fluoridation is a dead program because people are already concerned that their water isn't clean and has too many contaminants already
- Medicaid reimbursement is a disaster
- Concerned with dental therapists being introduced

Dr. Galati Response: Profit incentives exist for board examinations as well as protectionism to prevent abundance of providers (in the case of state-specific tests)

Scott Noren: Investigating group purchasing power of medical insurance as member benefit to entice new membership

Pam Bouton: Program was eliminated with Obamacare bill

Jim Orcutt: Was a great member benefit, also not enough transparency with board exam finances. Not fair that insurance companies can share fees as "usual and customary" but dentists cannot share fees without being accused of collusion. Also the situation is worse now

because insurance companies send letters telling patients they could pay less out of pocket by going to other providers

Marcus Spera: In the new brokerage service for buying/selling practices only for members of the ADA, is there a clause that the purchasing dentist would remain a member of the ADA for a certain time-period

Galati: I will have to check on that and get back to you

Motion to waive reading of minutes:

Motion passed

Officer Reports:

President

- Reiterated need to increase membership
- Need to develop oro/naso vaccine that works on mucosal level (Via IgA)
- Great Hygiene scholarship added, may increase, may expand to assistants, will include staying in sixth district as stipulation
- Need to find someone to head up Children's Oral Health Month in February

Howard Warner: Believe that 10-20% of dental offices nationwide closed

Payam: Roughly 12% in NYS

Louis: Need to relay all of the positives of NYSDA to members during covid-19, need to get large group practices involved, and emphasized need to utilize social media to recruit

Treasurer

- \$10,000 in relief fund
- \$28,000 in presidential fund to serve as host of statewide meeting, left over from it being cancelled. We were approached by Suffolk County to chip in to help fund theirs
- Invested \$94,000 in low-cost Vanguard funds as previously discussed as a reserve and so far it has increased \$1,700 since July

Executive Director

- Informed the council the Committee on Chemical Dependency was renamed to Committee on Substance Abuse and Well-Being
- Continuing Education Meeting attendance back to pre-pandemic levels
- In January the current SDDS Officers started an Annual Officer's Orientation to ensure a smooth transition between the chairs and orientating new officers. Tim also extended this to new committee and council chairs.
- Initiated an on-line SDDS Apparel Store, costs nothing, small revenue generation through Zappia's
- Monday 10/25/2021 Tim will have a preliminary meeting with SUNY Broome to gather information regarding our newly proposed Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Committee Reports:

- Howard:**
- EDPAC, Washington Lobby Day, Gov Affairs, all meetings via zoom
 - EDPAC - Need donations, if not for ADPAC dentistry would have been part of 4th wave of opening in August instead of second wave.
 - Three main issues are student debt, Covid relief, and everlasting smiles act

On the Federal Level, end of McCarren-Ferguson act

Pam: - Ethics committee, recused self-due to SDDS member being brought up
- Recommended Ethics refresher for member's only page of 6th district ADA Website. Motion passed unanimously
- Ethics video competition from dental schools

Sonny: - Anesthesia
- Push to allow anesthesia blocks from hygienists, infiltration and nitrous administration for non-hygiene procedures
- Allow Coda approved foreign dental graduates to apply for licensure
- Medical anesthesia allowed in dental anesthesia procedures but not vice versa
- Want to eliminate lead aprons -- based on studies from 1950's x rays, not current, low-radiation and low-scatter studies
- Stresses importance of thorough and accurate documentation

Payam: biggest issue with hygiene giving blocks is that it is the number one scenario for acute dental emergencies

Old Business:

Proposed resolution to reimburse alternate delegate, according to outlines on reimbursement for delegates, to New York House of Delegates Meeting. Motion Passed

New Business:

Resolution to create a committee headed by Jim Orcutt with the goal of retaining members and recruiting new members as well as investigation the reason for low membership. Motion Passed

- Creation of a new hygiene school is too costly, was worked on extensively last year by Payam and Dr. Dowd.

Nominations/Elections:

Propose to nominate Dr Mark Feldman for the NYSDA 2022 Distinguished Service Award

Louis: House Of Delegates in Las Vegas

- Discussed helpful ongoing technologies - mobile environment in order to increase ADA engagement with younger members
- Discussed new dues structures to encourage large cross-state group practices to engage with ADA membership
- National Endosseous Implant Registry, HIPPA violation, instead recommended to give card to patient with information printed similar to hip implants and pacemakers
- 3rd party concierge service to call plans, resolve disputes, to be reinstated
- \$582 ADA dues increased by \$9, for complaints contact Louis

Luis Mauleon Jr: - ADPAC importance, PPE funds were for providers not just physicians

Scott Noren: additionally, need to express shortage of dental assistants and hygienists. If you want living wages, you cannot also have Medicare-level reimbursements

Motion to table discussion on pilot program, which would require unanimous decision from all 13 districts, to allow new membership to pay 12 months of dues but receive 15 months of membership forgoing 3 months of payment. Motion passed

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion passed
Meeting adjourned at 930 pm

