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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
April 7, 2014, Mazzeos' Ristorante, Pittsfield

Chair's Report: Dr. Michael Williams (Dr. Paul Gamache - proxy)

Dr. Sakshaug presented two \$1000.00 Stephen Stone Educational Stipends. Stephan Hassmer is attending Dental Hygiene School at Springfield Technical Community College. Whitney Smith, RDH, is attending the University of Bridgeport while working on her Masters in Dental Hygiene/Public Health.

MDS Trustee's Report: Dr. Jay Wise

Dr. Wise reports that there are two bills of dental importance in front of Congress at this time. The Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner Bill (ney) and the Cost-Shifting Bill (aye).

An ADHP would be permitted to extract teeth, fill cavities, perform pulpotomies on primary teeth, hire and supervise dental assistants, and bill MassHealth, among a long list of "allowable" duties. Hygienists would be required to obtain 12-18 months of education beyond a Bachelor's degree to become an ADHP.

MDS does NOT believe that this bill will be beneficial.

The Cost-Shifting Bill requires that "No contract for the provision of healthcare services or benefits with a registered dentist shall require that such dentist provide dental services to a covered person at a particular fee unless said dental services are services for which the company provides payment under the applicable group or individual policy of accident, sickness or health insurance." This language would not apply to existing contracts and would therefore not change the provider networks for any insurer currently contracting for this provision.

MDS believes that this bill will be beneficial.

MDS position papers are available for review at www.massdental.org

At The New England Dental Leadership Conference the following issues were discussed.

- Future Dental Practices may favor large group or corporate practices
- Like MD's, dentists may be compensated on outcomes and not procedures
- Third parties will have a greater influence on compensation
- Solo practices will be consolidated in the future
- Auxiliaries will be utilized to a higher degree
- Improve practice management and business acumen
- Move away from commodity thinking
- Better use of technology will be needed – staff will need a higher skill set
- Connections will be needed to the larger Health Care Community

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Thomas Sakshaug

Current Balances as of 4/7/2014:

Checking:	\$ 4,293.16	
Money Market:	<u>\$25,565.21</u>	0.20% APY
Available for use:	\$29,858.34	
CD 37 Month	\$11,010.82	1.50% APY, matures 7-9-14
CD 30 Month	\$ 8,034.80	0.60% APY, matures 1-10-16
CD 36 month	\$ 8,046.41	0.80% APY, matures 7-10-16
Total CDs:	\$27,092.03	
Total funds:	\$56,950.37	

Recent dues receipts: March: \$193.33

Balances include our two \$500 matching Stone Scholarship awards.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: The BDDS is beginning to get hurt financially at certain restaurants due to dentists' failure to RSVP or to show up. If you plan to come, please inform the person running the dinner. If you do so, please come to the meeting! We sometimes must pay based on RSVPs. Please plan ahead and stick to your plan.

BDDS Representative's to MDS Council's Report:

Dr. Ed Helitzer sits on the Council of Dental Care & Benefits. Delta Dental and Altus are providing special dental insurance benefits under the Affordable Care Act. The policy offered by Delta is month to month. This requires dental providers to verify eligibility on a monthly basis regardless if the patient has a card.

The Affordable Care Act will only cover Orthodontic treatment from Orthodontists and then only after a rigorous pretreatment determination. The ACA will only cover either an FMX or Panorex once every five years.

Items from the Floor:

Dr. Phil Mamolito introduced the newest member of BDDS. Dr. Elena Nazarova is a Prosthodontist currently working with Dr. Mamolito on Wendell Ave. She received her DMD and Prosthodontic Certificate at the University of Connecticut Dental School. Welcome Dr. Nazarova to the Berkshire District Dental Society.

A motion was made to donate \$100.00 to a fund to aid in the search of Jiwon Lee. She is a fourth year Dental student at Columbia University who has been missing for over a week. She is the current President of the American Student Dental Association. Her brother Lee (a Columbia Medical student) quickly started an online fundraising campaign ([GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com)) to hire a private detective to help find her.

Dr. Michael Wasserman will continue to serve as MDS President for the next two months. He stated that this position has allowed him to travel, meet many colleagues and contribute to a committee created by Governor Patrick. He thanked the members of BDDS in supporting him in this career highlight.

BDDS wishes to Thank Drs. Louis & Steve Yarmosky, Dr. Jay Wise and Dr. Mike Williams for representing us on Beacon Hill Day.

Joanne Simpson, RDH spoke in favor of the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. She stated that this position would require a Masters Level Degree (analogous to a Nurse Practitioner).

Dental Continuing Education Meeting:

Dr. Erich Schmidt hosted tonight's meeting. Dr. Jim Harding gave a talk on Joint Replacement Premedication.

Next General Membership Meeting:

Dr. Louis Yarmosky will host our next All Day Meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2014.
Dr. Carlo Ercoli will speak on Periodontics and Prosthodontics.

*Minutes of Monthly Meeting submitted by District Secretary – Dr. Paul Gamache
www.berkshiredistrict.org, Members Only tab, username=BDDS, password=Williams*