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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
December 14, 2015 Cork N Hearth Restaurant, Lee, MA

**Chair's Report: Dr. Jolene Krol**

Dr. Krol welcomed all members in attendance to this evenings' meeting.

**MDS Trustee's Report: Dr. Jay Wise**

An Opioid Bill is being proposed to address the abuse of prescription pain relievers. The Massachusetts Medical Society is against this bill due to the increase in prescribing difficulty it would place on Medical Doctors. This bill will place a quantity limit of a 3-day supply for a first time narcotic prescription. The Massachusetts Medical Society is trying to extend this limit to a 7-day supply. MDS also opposes a 3-day supply as a prescribing burden would also be placed on those Dentists who need to write such scripts on a regular basis.

There is Legislation proposed that would link registration into the Prescription Monitoring Program to Dental License Renewal with BORID. At this time, Dentists who are prescribing Opioid medication are required to run a background check on their patients with the Massachusetts PMP Data base.

The Dental Hygiene Practitioner Bill (Senate 2076) is being presented to the Massachusetts Senate that would create a mid-level provider of Dental Care. Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Pignatelli sponsor this bill with major funding from the PEW Charitable Trust. The Deans of the three Boston Dental Schools are in favor of this bill. The bill would allow creation of 2-year educational program for hygienists' to enroll in. The Dental Hygiene Provider would be required to enter a collaborative management agreement with a Dentist. A few of the expanded dental

practice abilities a Dental Hygiene Practitioner (DHP) would have include; pulpotomies on primary teeth, non-surgical extraction of permanent teeth and prescribing certain medications. This Bill will likely be on the Senate floor in March. There are a few States that have passed similar Bills allowing the generation of Dental Hygiene Practitioners.

MDS is opposed to the Dental Hygienist Practitioner Bill as it is currently written. MDS is proposing an Expanded Function Dental Assistant designation.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (not BORID) mandates the use Amalgam Separators in Dental Offices. There will be a \$460 fee to renew this license.

Dentists who do NOT belong to MassHealth MUST enroll in MassHealth as a Non-billing Provider in order to renew your dental license by March 31, 2018. MDS recommends that you take action now to be in compliance with the state regulation. Information as to this process can be found on the MDS website <http://www.massdental.org/acamasshealth.aspx>

BORID states that they will be inspecting Dental Offices in the near future. A compliance check list is available on the BORID and MDS website. They recommend that you download this form and run your own inspection. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/dhpl/dentist/dental-facility-compliance-inspection-form.html>  
[http://www.massdental.org/uploadedFiles/1\\_For\\_Professionals/Laws\\_and\\_Regs/Sample%20On-Site%20Dental%20Office%20Inspection%20Form.pdf](http://www.massdental.org/uploadedFiles/1_For_Professionals/Laws_and_Regs/Sample%20On-Site%20Dental%20Office%20Inspection%20Form.pdf)

MDS realizes that there are a number of new regulations that its members need to be made aware of. MDS utilizes numerous avenues to disseminate this information. MDS emails are the quickest way they get this information out to the membership but only 30% of these emails are opened. The MDS Journal is published every three months, mailed to its members and is available online. MDS Connection is published every two months, mailed to its members and is available online. MDS maintains a call center (800) 342-8747 or fax (508) 480-0002 that is staffed by three full time employees available to answer any question you might have regarded your practice of Dentistry.

Beacon Hill Day is Wednesday, March 30, 2016. If you can block yourself out of your office this day, your presence in front of your legislators would be greatly appreciated.

Yankee Dental Congress will run from January 27 to 31 this year at the BCEC. It is important to attend the largest yearly event administered by MDS.

Dr. Michael Wasserman continues to represent BDDS and MDS by sitting on an ADA Council.

Dr. Jim Nesti continues to represent BDDS and by organizing an MDS Retreat this past summer.

Dr. Jolene Krol continues to represent BDDS as the only sitting District Chair to attend an MDS Trustee Board Meeting.

Dr. Alan DerKazarian passed away last year and will be missed in his support of the MDS Foundation. MDS made a donation to the Foundation in his memory.

### **Committee Chair's Report:**

Dr. Alan Gold represents BDDS as the Nominations Committee Chair. Any member interested in representing BDDS as an officer or serve on an MDS Council please contact him at [agoldds@gmail.com](mailto:agoldds@gmail.com) .

### **Items from the Floor:**

Dr. Tom Sakshaug stated that VIM is now expanding their facility and asking that BDDS aid them with a financial contribution. BDDS has given \$1,500 in the past and \$2,500 was given by the MDS Foundation. A motion to give \$2,000 this year was made, seconded and carried unanimously by the membership.

Dr. Paul Gamache stated that the Stephan Stone Dental Allied Health Scholarship would no longer be sponsored by MDS. In the past, MDS granted two \$500 Stipends to two Berkshire students of Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting or Dental Lab Technician with BDDS matching the award. At this time, BDDS has the option of sponsoring this stipend independently or discontinuing it as well.

### **Dental Continuing Education Meeting:**

Dr. Fred Hyman hosted tonight's meeting.

Dr. Elena Nazarova gave a talk on Removable Partial Dentures.

**Next General Membership Meeting:**

Dr. Paul Gamache will host our next Monday Night Meeting on January 11, 2016.  
Dr. Lance Smagalski will speak on Radiation and Osteoradionecrosis.

*Minutes of Monthly Meeting submitted by District Secretary – Dr. Paul Gamache  
[www.berkshiredistrict.org](http://www.berkshiredistrict.org), Members Only tab, username=BDDS, password=Gamache*