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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
December 5, 2017 Cork N Hearth Restaurant, Lee, MA

**Chair's Report: Dr. Erich Schmidt**

Dr. Schmidt welcomed everyone to this evenings meeting.

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

MDS has established a Governance Task Force to present a plan that would make our organization smaller at the policy making level. The "747" proposal is being discussed with the intention of bringing this matter for voting at the MDS House of Delegates on June 8, 2018. This proposal stipulates that there should be 7 District Trustees, 4 MDS Executive Officers and 7 MDS Councils and Committees. Currently there are 14 District Trustees, 8 MDS Executive Officers and 11 MDS Councils and Committees.

There was a meeting held on November 17 between the Massachusetts Division of Insurance and Delta Dental and MDS. The consensus of this meeting was that Delta Dental was not well prepared.

There are two major pieces of Legislation and MDS is concerned with:

An Act concerning dental service corporations (H.2197)

- Authorizes the Division of Insurance to oversee for-profit Delta at the same level as non-profit Delta.
- Prevents restrictions from Delta on diagnosis, treatment, and referrals.
- Prevents Delta from forcing providers to accept PPO plans in order to accept Premier plans.

## An Act relative to patients' bill of rights (S.504/H.582)

- Requires DOI to set standard definitions for four categories of dental services. Plan purchasers can then accurately compare the coverage offered by each plan.
- Requires 100% coverage of preventive and diagnostic and basic restorative procedures for children and requires 100% coverage for preventive and diagnostic procedures for adults.
- Prohibits carriers from offering plans with an annual plan maximum of less than \$1000 in benefits.
- Allows subscribers to roll-over any unused benefits from one calendar year to the next.
- Eliminates waiting periods for all covered services
- Allows DOI to require that certain procedures be covered for certain populations beyond what is generally allowed under dental benefit plans.
- Ties fee methodologies to the regional dental CPI.
- Requires DOI to review reimbursement fee methodologies that use geographic regions for the purpose of area rate adjustments and disapprove any methodology that uses too few regions, has too great of a range in adjustments, or is not conducive to accomplishing public policy goals.
- Assignment of benefits
- Prohibits carriers from setting nominal fees for services.

### **BDDS Representative's to MDS Council's Report:**

Dr. Ed Helitzer is representing the Berkshire District by sitting on a Governance Task Force Chaired by Dr. Mina Paul. This Committee has been tasked to decrease the number of Dentists needed to represent the Dental Society at the State level. Dr. Helitzer intends to be a loud voice in support of representation of the Berkshire District. The next Governance Task Force meeting is on December 21, 2017.

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

Dr. Tom Sakshaug spoke about the important role the Dental Clinic at the Volunteers In Medicine (VIM) Clinic located in Great Barrington plays in providing Dental Care to low

income individuals and families. This clinic relies on Volunteer Dentists, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistants as well as Physicians and their support staff to provide care. There is currently a need for more volunteer Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants. Anyone who would like more information or a tour of the clinic can contact Dr. Tom Sakshaug at <http://drtomsakshaug@gmail.com> .

Dr. Tom Sakshaug made a motion to donate \$2500 to the VIM Dental Clinic. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the members at this evenings meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report: Dr. Jolene Krol**

Current Balances as of 12/10/2017

Checking:	\$ 10,787.87
Money Market:	<u>\$ 9,430.05</u> 0.05% APY
Available for use:	\$ 20,217.92
CD 36 month	\$17,464.52 0.797% APY, matures 7-14-20
CD 37 Month	\$ 5,176.16 1.834% APY, matures 2-10-19
CD 36 Month	\$10,150.58 1.144% APY, matures 8-10-19
CD 48 Month	\$12,410.70 0.995% APY, matures 7-14-18
Total CDs:	\$45,201.96
Total funds:	\$65,419.88

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

Dr. Erich Schmidt hosted tonight's meeting.

Dr. Sara Shah gave a talk on Implants.

### **Next General Membership Meeting:**

Dr. Joshua Kleederman will host our next Monday Night Meeting on January 8, 2018.

Dr. Fred Hyman will speak on TMJ.

*Minutes of Monthly Meeting submitted by District Secretary – Dr. Paul Gamache*  
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