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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
March 10, 2014 Mazzeo's Restaurant, Pittsfield, MA

**Chair's Report: Dr. Michael Williams**

Dr. Michael Williams welcomed everyone to this evenings meeting.

Dr. Jim Nesti (BDDS Nominations' Chair) asked for a motion to accept the 2014/2015 Ballot as it was emailed to the membership recently. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously in favor of by those in attendance.

Dr. Thomas Sakshaug (Treasurer) stated that some restaurants have held us financially responsible for the total number of dinners that we make reservations for. There have been times when the total number of people in attendance does not meet the reservation number resulting in the BDDS Treasury making up the difference. Please make every effort to attend the Monday Night Meetings when responding in the affirmative. When circumstances change, let the meeting host know of your change in attendance status.

Beacon Hill Day is Monday April 2, 2014. The Valley District is trying to get a bus to come to Springfield and car pool into Boston. MDS will host a bus leaving from headquarters in Southborough. The day starts with a delicious breakfast at the Parker House in Boston. There, MDS will present you with speaking points for the legislatures that you will meet later in the day. Following breakfast, you will travel to the State House to the offices of our State Senator and our Representatives. Please contact Dr. Jay Wise [info@drjaywisedds.com](mailto:info@drjaywisedds.com) for additional information.

Dr. Thomas Sakshaug has served the Berkshire District Dental Society for the past 10 years as our Treasurer. This respected Officer position requires about an hours worth of time each month and some experience with QuickBooks is helpful. Our District is best served when different members rotate through the Officer positions. Dr. Sakshaug would welcome any member to learn how this position functions and pass the title to another BDDS member. Please contact Dr. Sakshaug at [doctom1977@gmail.com](mailto:doctom1977@gmail.com) for more information.

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

Yankee was a complete success by all accounts and a great kickoff to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Massachusetts Dental Society.

### Beacon Hill Day is April 2, 2014

- • Thank you to all and everyone willing to take a day from your practice to attend this important day at our beautiful Statehouse.
- • As dentists, we have a lot of respect at the Statehouse. No other organized professional group (physicians, optometrists, pharmacists, etc) present such a strong and unified voice for their membership. Your Senator and Representatives are very aware of this.
- • There may be a bus from Springfield sponsored by MDS if we have enough people signed up. Otherwise we will go to MDS headquarters and take the shuttle in from there. Call me at 413 243 1222 or email if you are planning to attend and make sure you are registered.

### Politics and Getting Stuff Done in Boston:

- • Our lobbyist Roger Donoghue reports that this is a very difficult and dysfunctional time in the Statehouse: 14 members of Congress have left or are leaving, the Senate President (Therese Murray) is a lame duck, Governor Patrick has not been around much and he is also a lame duck, there is little collaboration between the Speaker (DeLeo) and Senate President Murray. So nothin's happenin except a lot of sternum pecking.
- • The revised non-covered services bill (less advantageous for dentists but a now a bill that has a better chance of passing) remains in committee but may come to the floor in the next few weeks. If it does, we will need to mobilize our grass roots efforts to connect with our local reps.
- • Attorney Donoghue hinted at the fact that we may not want to keep beating the bushes on non-covered services issue if the bill does not reach the floor this year....it may be better strategy for dentistry to reserve political capital for future, perhaps more important issues such as mid- level providers, etc. Stay tuned.

BORID: Has a new chair, Dr. Cynthia Stevens, and a new secretary, Lois Sobel. It is not anticipated that this will be a kinder, friendlier BORID, so making sure your office is in compliance will be more important than ever. If you have questions, it is always best to consult with MDS first, not BORID.

## **Treasurer's Report: Dr. Thomas Sakshaug**

Current Balances as of 3/10/2014:

Checking: \$ 5,227.43  
Money Market: \$25,561.96 0.20% APY  
Available for use: \$30,789.39

CD 37 Month \$10,996.90 1.50% APY, matures 7-9-14  
CD 30 Month \$ 8,030.72 0.60% APY, matures 1-10-16  
CD 36 month \$ 8,040.97 0.80% APY, matures 7-10-16  
Total CDs: \$27,068.59

Total funds: \$57,866.98

Recent dues receipts: January: \$1234.17; February: \$403.33

**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.

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

Joanne Shmulski, CDA will be traveling again to an impoverished country on a dental outreach mission. Last year, Joanne went to Del Ray, Mexico to an orphanage and reached out to over 200 children. Joanne asked BDDS members again to help her defray her materials cost by passing out lists of needed items. Please contact Joanne at 413-717-0590 for more information.

There will be a fund-raiser for Senator Ben Downing on March 17, 2014 at the Spice Dragon Restaurant in Pittsfield. Dr. Michael Wasserman will be there to present a check on behalf of MDS. Any member wishing to attend is welcome to join Dr. Wasserman.

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

Dr. Michael Cestone hosted tonight's meeting. Dr. Raymond Meandro and Dr. Eric Holmgren gave a talk on Impacted Canine Management.

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

Dr. Erich Schmidt will host our next Monday Night Meeting on April 7, 2014. Dr. Jim Harding will speak on Antibiotic Premedication for Joint Replacement.

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