

Berkshire District Dental Society

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
November 14, 2011 Spice Dragon Restaurant, Pittsfield, MA

Chairman's Report: Dr. Eric Holmgren

Dr. Holmgren welcomed those in attendance to tonight's meeting.

MDS Trustee's Report: Dr. Michael Wasserman (proxy for Dr. Jay Wise)

MDS will be asking Delta Dental providers to complete a survey in the near future. Participants will need an hour to complete the survey and receive an honorarium of \$65.00. A minimum number of 250 responses will be needed for this survey to be statistically relevant.

The purpose the Delta Dental Survey is to help MDS better understand how Delta Dental's fee methodology affects us now. In the near future, MDS believes that Delta will want to alter its new agreement with the Insurance Commissioner which currently pegs its annual reimbursement rate to a Dental CPI. Information gathered with the Delta Dental survey will assist MDS in challenging changes DD might propose to their benefit and adversely ours.

Several national dental service corporations and dental insurers have announced new policies relative to non-covered services. These policies set a cap on the amount that a participating dentist can bill a patient for services not covered by the plan, thus setting a maximum allowable fee for non-covered services, or, in cases where the patient has exhausted her/his yearly benefits, restricting the provider to a capped fee instead of the usual and customary fee. MDS will be initiating a Grass Roots Effort to support a bill (*An Act Relative to Financial Services Contracts for Dental Benefits Corporations*) proposed by Senator Chandler and Representative Scibak combating these policies.

Yankee Dental Congress 2012 will take place on January 25-29, 2012. You can register for the event at www.massdental.org. Early Bird Registration has been extended to Friday, November 18, 2011 due to the power outages.

Dr. Wasserman will be the MDS President for the 2012-2013 session. He will need help from members of the Berkshire District in running Yankee Dental Congress 2013.

Currently, Drs. Gold and Gamache's have volunteered to assist Dr. Wasserman in this endeavor.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Thomas Sakshaug

Current Balances as of 11-14-11:

Checking:	\$	823.67
Cash	\$	0.00
Money Market:	<u>\$28,842.57</u>	0.40% APY
Available for use:	\$29,666.24	

CD 37 Month	\$	5,477.52	2.50% APY, matures 7-9-12
CD 37 Month:	<u>\$</u>	<u>7,216.11</u>	2.20% APY, matures 7-9-13
CD 37 Month	\$	10,622.11	1.50% APY, matures 7-9-14
Total CDs:	\$	23,315.74	
Total funds:	\$	52,981.98	

Fall 2011 All Day Meeting Partial/Preliminary Accounting:

Income:

Tuition	\$	18,205
Vendors*	\$	1,500
Total	\$	19,705

Expenses:

Speaker	\$	13,357.97
Hotel**	\$	7,941.87
Handouts	\$	298.10
Tuition ref.	\$	195.00
Print/mail	\$	1,087.76
Total:	\$	22,880.70

Notes: * We have not received all vendor payments, I believe.

A reminder: Any member of an MDS Council, Committee or Task Force who travels to attend a meeting thereof and reports to the District at a BDDS meeting or via the minutes will be given a \$50 stipend by the BDDS each time upon request. The Trustee will receive reimbursement for dues in lieu of travel expenses.

District Representative's to MDS Councils Report:

Dr. Ed Helitzer represents BDDS on the Dental Care and Benefits Programs Council. At the last meeting he attended he was informed that there is a new administrator of the Mass Health program overseeing Dental Benefits. There are a few small benefit changes that have occurred such as non-coverage of orthodontic exams in children under 5. The MassHealth program still does not cover adults.

Dr. Ed Helitzer also represents BDDS on the Peer Review Council. He reports that BORID states that there has been a diminished number of cases presented to the Board this year.

Items from the Floor:

Dr. Paul Gamache stated that applications for the MDS/BDDS Dental Allied Health Scholarship are available. This is a financial award to Berkshire residents who are currently enrolled in Dental Hygiene School or a Dental Assisting program or Dental Lab Technician program. Applications are due by January 31, 2012. Please contact Dr. Gamache at (413) 442-8664 or info@paulgamachedmd.com for more information.

Dr. Melvin Feldman from the Volunteers in Medicine Dental Clinic in Great Barrington introduced Dr. Gerry Goldberg to the District. Dr. Goldberg is a retired dentist who has joined the VIM Dental Clinic in order to serve the dental needs of those patients.

Dental Continuing Education Meeting:

Dr. Pat Carsell hosted tonight's meeting. Dr. Eric Holmgren gave a talk on Medical Emergencies in a Dental Office.

Next General Membership Meeting:

Dr. Paul Gamache will host our next Monday Night meeting on December 5, 2011. Dr. Jack Budnick will make a presentation on Forensic Dentistry.

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