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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
November 14, 2017 Berkshire Hills Country Club, Pittsfield

Chair's Report: Dr. Erich Schmidt

Dr. Michael Wasserman and Dr. Alan Cutler were awarded the ADA Life Membership pin. This status is given to BDDS members who have been involved in organized dentistry for 30 consecutive years or 40 total years.

MDS Trustee's Report: Dr. Jay Wise

This past summer, The Boston Globe published articles portraying Dentists in a very poor light. MDS President David Lustbader responded with a letter explaining that MDS legislative efforts are striving to ensure that high quality oral health care is safe, accessible and trustworthy.

ADA dues will increase \$30 due to a special assessment to fund "Initiative to Drive Utilization of Dental Services for ADA Members". This will increase spending of public awareness for dentistry, i.e. "Find a Dentist Program, etc.". National promotion of good dental care benefits us all.

All members should visit the ADA site to check their personal data and ensure that a current, professional "head shot" photo is listed.

<https://findadentist.ada.org/>

Aspen Dental offices have been pursuing a television advertising program portraying Aspen Dentists as being "Different" than other Massachusetts Dentists. The three different TV commercials portray Aspen Dentists as easier to deal with, discount

denture procedures, provide better coverage, and do not rob their patients. The MDS attorneys have presented a “cease and desist” order identifying that portions of these commercials are violating various Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations concerning advertising relating to the practice of Dentistry.

MDS has sponsored Bill 2127 – An Act Concerning Dental Service Corporations.

- Authorize DOI to oversee For-Profit Delta at the same level as Non-Profit Delta
- Prevent restrictions from Delta on Dx, Tx, and referrals
- Prevent Delta from forcing providers to accept PPO plans in order to accept Premier Plan

There will be a hearing with the Massachusetts Division of Insurance on November 17, 2017 to determine if MDS has a legitimate claim against Delta Dental.

There are two parallel Bills concerning the Mid-Level Provider - a Bill from MDS and a Bill from Representative Pignatelli/Senator Chandler. The consensus at MDS is that some sort of mid-level provider bill will pass before the current session ends in July of 2018. Legislators want to move forward and will vote on these Bills if either one gets to the floor. The two major concerns between the Bills:

- Direct Supervision versus General Supervision
- Underserved Populations
- Procedures provided
- Reimbursement

Delta Dental has made it clear that they are seeking the creation of a Mid-Level Provider and would strongly support a less compensated provider for routine dental procedures.

The following link from Boston Herald Radio is an 11-minute recording of the MDS President discussing the Mid-Level Provider Bill.

<http://soundcloud.com/bostonherald/10-18-17-dr-david-lustbader-of-the-mass-dental-society>

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 24 – 27, 2018 Yankee Dental Convention
- April 25, 2018 Beacon Hill Day
- June 8, 2018 House of Delegates

Committee Chair's Report:

Dr. Schmidt represents BDDS as the Chair of our CE committee. Dr. Schmidt has met with his counterpart at the Valley District. In the interest of collaborating continuing education events with our neighboring District, a motion was made to share the District email addresses. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by those members in attendance. In the future, BDDS members should expect to receive invitations to CE events hosted by the Valley District. In turn, BDDS might see some of our neighboring colleagues attending some of our CE Events. If possible, be sure to welcome new faces with a smile and become a good will ambassador of our Beautiful Berkshires.

Dr. Schmidt discussed using the online service "Brown Paper Tickets" in the future as an avenue to register for future BDDS Continuing Education Events. This service is currently being used by the Valley District and is recommended by MDS. BDDS hopes to transition to this service in 2018.

BDDS Representative's to MDS Council's Report:

Dr. Ed Helitzer represents BDDS as the Co-Chair of Council of Dental Care and Dental Benefits. The Council met on Sept 27, 2017 with about 25 people in attendance. The Council was very happy to be in existence with all members happy to attend. The council is going to meet next on Dec 6 with Dr. Linda Vidone and Erick Paul who will give a presentation on what is next to expect from Delta Dental. Stay tuned.

On Oct 25 as Chairman of the Mass State Peer Review Committee there was a training session for local district members in Eastern Mass and I made sure there is to be a Western Mass meeting possibly at the Cork N Heart. More info as this evolves. As a member of the Committee on Constitution & Bylaws, I was informed that BDDS will have to formulate bylaw changes recommended by the Committee on Governance. I was informed (in confidence) that there may be a recommendation to reduce the number of trustees to 6 from 14. Should this occur, I was going to push for the following Districts: Berkshire, Valley, Cape Cod, South Shore and the rest of the State Divided by North of Interstate 90 and South of Interstate 90.

Items from the Floor:

Dr. Lisa Gamache introduced Dr. Reya Das as her new associate. Dr. Das completed her undergraduate Dental Education Case Western Reserve University – School of Dental Medicine and received her Advanced Pedodontic Certificate and M.S. from the University of California at San Francisco – School of Dentistry.

Dr. Reya Das joins her sister Dr. Neha Das in the office of Dr. Lisa Gamache.

Dr. Peter Sheffer asked BDDS to consider making a \$250 donation to “Thanksgiving Angels”. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by those members in attendance.

“Volunteers from 16 local area food pantries along with many Pittsfield area churches, synagogues and organizations have joined together to form the “Thanksgiving Angels”. The goal of this group is to provide free turkeys and “fixings” to help our community members be able to prepare a meal to feed their families during the Thanksgiving holiday. The Thanksgiving Angels provide turkeys and all the trimmings to over 1,400 local families each year. The Berkshire Eagle has published several articles about this annual distribution of food and love.”

Dr. Charlie Nemser informed the District that last year Gov. Baker increased the Continuing Educational requirement concerning Pain Management Courses. Be sure to visit the MDS website www.massdental.org for more information.

Dr. Charlie Nemser introduced the most recent BMC residents; Dr. Vidi Amin, Dr. Vandana Sethi, and Dr. Firas Albadran. Dr. Nemser also welcomes Dr. Ronald Maitland to the BMC clinic. Dr. Maitland is an instructor at Tufts Dental School as well as an examiner for the NERBs. Dr. Maitland, along with Dr. Alan Metzger, are teaching at the BMC Dental resident program.

Treasurer’s Report: Dr. Jolene Krol

Current Balances as of 11/18/2017:

Checking:	\$ 16,484.61
Money Market:	\$ <u>430.01</u>
Available for use:	\$ 16,914.62

CD 36 month	\$17,453.09	0.797% APY, matures 7-14-20
CD 37 Month	\$ 5,168.37	1.834% APY, matures 2-10-19

CD 36 Month	\$10,141.05	1.144% APY, matures 8-10-19
CD 48 Month	\$12,400.56	0.995% APY, matures 7-14-18
Total CDs:	\$45,163.07	
Total funds:	\$62,077.69	

Fall 2017 All Day Meeting:

Tuition:	13,030.00
Vendors:	0.00
Total income:	13,030.00

Pittsfield CC:	2,529.84
Speaker:	7,841.70
Car Service:	125.00
Zip N Sort:	737.82
Postage:	18.76
Admin Fees:	350.00
Total Expenses:	11,603.12

Net Income: 1,426.88 Thank you Barb and all who helped!

Dental Continuing Education Meeting:

Dr. Mathew Ballinger hosted tonight's meeting.

Dr. Michael Nancollas and Lynn Festa, OTR gave a talk on Hand Arthritis.

Next General Membership Meeting:

Dr. Erich Schmidt will host our next Tuesday Night Meeting on December 5, 2017.

Dr. Sara Shah will speak on Periodontics.

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