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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
September 22, 2012 Cork N Hearth Restaurant, Lee, MA

Chair's Report: Dr. Lisa Gamache

Dr. Lisa Gamache welcomed all the members in attendance for the start of the BDDS 2014/2015 meeting cycle.

MDS Trustee's Report: Dr. Jay Wise

- **Update on Legislation:** Non-covered services legislation (now the diluted bill, not the original) has once again been kicked to the curb. It is hoped that the bill will move in an informal session before year-end. ○ Problem is that key legislators such as Senator Harriet Chandler seem to have “flipped.” And are no longer in our camp. The bill has had a “hold” put on it until the Dental Insurance Commission issues its report. ○ Dr. Mike Wasserman and Dr. Tom Trowbridge sit on this Commission so we are very capably represented. (This Commission was established by Gov. Patrick when he vetoed the bill originally. This allowed him to avoid a difficult decision and kick the can down the road without nixing the bill’s possibility in the future.) ○ The process should yield excellent information when complete, but involves a lot of interests besides dentists. Dentists are being demonized for “gouging” patients. Lucky for us, we’ve got Mike in there with his gloves off setting them straight. You need to get out of your chair and go say thank you to him right now. ○ Significant: The Commission directs the State Dental Reimbursement Study, which will be completed soon. Non-covered services legislation and a lot of other influential decisions hang in the balance of what this study reveals.
- **Regional Meeting:** Wednesday Oct 22, 2014. 6pm at Max’s Tavern in Springfield.

We try to have a good contingent from the Berkshires to go support our President Dr. Tony Giamberardino. Get a free dinner, ride down the turnpike while exchanging lies and jokes with your Berkshire colleagues, learn the latest about issues facing dentists in Massachusetts, listen to dentists from other towns in Western Mass complain about stuff too. All are invited and encouraged. Usually it's a car pool event...meet at Dr. Wise and Jones, get on the turnpike...Call me 413 243 1222 if you have interest.

- **Veteran's Smile Day is Nov 7, 2014.** You have received information on this from the Mass Dental Society. It is a great cause. The program handles everything and it is by appointment, not the crazy line-out-your-door that you might be imagining. You are simply volunteering to provide free dental care in your office for a portion or all of this day, and you may do or not do any procedures as you choose. More information will be forthcoming soon. Here's a nice way to answer those dudes that call us price gougers. Plus, it's the right thing to do...for a very deserving and underserved segment of our local population.
- **Yankee 2015.** ○ Registration is open. Support our Yankee Dental Congress. ○ Yankee trying to go green. If you don't need 6 catalogs sent to your office please call them and tell them not to do this next year. And download the app when you get there..it's better than that big clunky book anyway. ○ It's fun and great to get involved as a volunteer. Lots of lapel pins...a rocking fashion-statement maroon sweater to mark you as an important volunteer and highlight your impressive physique... it just ain't gonna get better than this. And there is an outside chance we all learn something in the classroom, on the show floor, or over a beer.
- **Calendar at-a-glance for upcoming MDS events** on separate page. Note these upcoming events: ○ ADA Annual Session, San Antonio ○ BDDS All Day Meeting ○ Regional Meeting ○ Yankee Dental ○ Beacon Hill Day ○ MDS Annual Session
- Don't forget that **dues waiver** is a possibility. It is a confidential process. If you are in need you should apply.
- **Anti fluoridation movement** is alive and well on North Shore of Boston. Very well funded and very well organized. ○ Watch for Dr. Paul Connett and the

“Fluoride Action Network”. He is a biochemist from Binghamton NY. (Dr Connett himself appears to be getting quite well funded in the process, but that is another topic) ○ We learned how difficult and damaging this kind of fight can be from experience 20+ years ago in Lenox. Opposition to these folks makes you appear to be someone wishing to try to poison the human race, yet much of what the Fluoride Action Network is putting on the internet is not based on sound empirical research. ○ A solid position is going to be required—this will likely hit the local news and our patients will be asking about it if they are not already.

- **Dental Assistants:** As of September 17, 2014, BORID now requires all dental assistants to be registered and licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. THIS IS IMPORTANT What action you must take by when: ○ All dental assistants, including certified assistants, OJT assistants and otherwise must register with the Board of Registration in Dentistry by December 31, 2014.

○ But wait! You can't go home tonite and take care of this....registration is not anticipated to open until Oct 15, 2014. Or so. Apparently we are to go home and mark our calendars so we can be in readiness when BORID gets the online registration launched.

○ Cost: First time will be \$ 60. Then \$ 45 for renewal. ○ BORID will have an online registration. Once we know the link we will send it out. ○ Check MDS website at www.massdental.org/daregs for updated information and a link to the registration site when it becomes available. ○ Renewal cycle is every two years on October 15 on odd years. Thus, you and your dental assistants will be enjoying doing this next year also, then have two years off. (This is done to be staggered from the dental hygienists so you don't run in to any overhead problems and you will always have something fun on your calendar to help you continue to feel the love from BORID.)

○ Requirements: Each dental assistant must accumulate 12 CEU's in this two year period.

○ Tasteless sarcasm aside, this issue can't be griped away...we just have to do it.

- **Prediction:** on this note, I think you will begin to see MDS turning its focus in the

near future from legislative advocacy to regulatory advocacy. We need both, but the new and improved BORID is looking to make sure you know who is boss. Thankfully we have some allies on the inside such as Dr. Milton Glicksman, and Dr. David Samuels. Our Mass Dental Society Board of Trustees Liaison is Dr. Mary Jane Hanlon. All are solidly knowledgeable and committed to justice to both patients and dentists.

- **Don't forget to check out:** ○ ADA web page Center for Professional Success: success.ada.org ○ MDS Mobile App available: www.massdental.org/mobile.aspx
- **October 6, 2014...**hydrocodone will now be a Schedule II drug per the DEA. This may only affect those with a limited licensure, but tells us how much abuse there is out there. Dentists are the # 1 prescribers of narcotics. Are you signed up with the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) yet? It's easy. Do it before they make you do it.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Thomas Sakshaug

Current Balances as of 9/21/2014:

Checking:	\$ 2,419.61
Money Market:	<u>\$13,633.80</u> 0.06% APY
Available for use:	\$16,053.41

CD 30 Month	\$ 8,054.96	0.60% APY, matures 1-10-16
CD 36 month	\$ 8,073.33	0.80% APY, matures 7-10-16
CD 36 Month	\$17,018.19	0.80% APY, matures 7-14-17
CD 48 Month	\$12,016.03	1.00% APY, matures 7-14-18

Total CDs: \$45,162.51

Total funds: \$61,215.92

Spring 2014 All-Day Meeting:

Tuition	\$15,490.00
Vendors	\$ 500.00
Total Income	\$15,990.00

Speaker \$ 4,500.00

Williams Inn	\$ 4,425.00
Printing	\$ 644.28
Mailing	\$ 350.36
Total Expenses	\$ 9,919.64

Net income \$ 6,070.36...A fine job, Dr. Louis Yarmosky and crew!

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.

Committee Chair's Report:

Dr. Charlie Nemser represents BDDS by serving on The Committee of Dental Education. He stated that all Dental Assistants will need to be registered with BORID. The initial registration fee will be \$60 and renewal \$45. (All Dental Assistants means CDA's and OTJ's.) Registration will start October 15, 2014 with a December 31, 2014 deadline. Registration will occur every two years. 12 credits of continuing education will be also be needed during the two-year cycle (i.e. 6 CEU's per year).

Dr. Charlie Nemser introduced the new Dental Residents at BMC. The Berkshire District welcomes Dr. Twinkle Anand, Dr. Harsh Patel, Dr. Yamini Patel.

Dr. Louis Yarmosky represents BDDS by serving as the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee. He mentioned that our next ALL DAY Meeting will be held on TUESDAY, October 14, 2014 at The Williams Inn. The May 2015 and October 2015 All Day Meetings will be on Fridays.

Items from the Floor:

Dr. Tom Sakshaug made a motion to donate \$1,500.00 to the Dental Clinic at VIM. The motion was seconded and followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

Dr. Charlie Nemser made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the MDS Foundation. The motion was seconded and followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

Dr. Tom Sakshaug mentioned that one of his temporary hygienists is looking to leave corporate dentistry for private practice. She would be an asset to any office. Please contact Tom at doctom1977@gmail.com for specific information.

Dr. Paul Gamache stated that the applications for the 2015 Dental Allied Health Education Stipend is available for download on the MDS website. From the main MDS page, visit "For the Public" section and click on Dental Careers. Applications are due on January 31, 2015 at 137 Elm Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or email at info@berkshiredental.org.

Dr. Paul Gamache stated that he will be utilizing the resources of MDS more this year in an attempt to ease the tasks associated with Secretarial duties of BDDS. He will use their email notification service to send out information concerning the Monday Night Meetings. Please be sure that MDS has your correct email address. If you stop receiving email notifications, contact info@bershiredental.org or Christina Wong at cwongchin@massdental.org. MDS has a mobile app for Apple and Android platforms, which will list all our meeting dates. Be sure to download them. The Meeting dates will continue to be available at www.berkshiredental.org.

Dr. Paul Gamache mentioned that the MDS Presidential Regional meeting will be held at Max Tavern at the Basketball Hall of Fame on October 22, 2014. This meeting is open to all members of the Berkshire District (in years past only the executive committee was invited). Your attendance entitles you to complementary sit down dinner in the company of MDS officers and colleagues of the Valley and Wachussetts District. Contact info@berkshiredental.org or info@drjaywisedds.com for car pool information.

Dr. Lisa Gamache mentioned that BDDS received a Thank-you note from the Dental Outreach Endeavor of Joanne Schmulsky, CDA last year in Monterrey, Mexico.

Dental Continuing Education Meeting:

Dr. Charlie Nemser hosted tonight's meeting. Debra Udley (from EDIC) gave a talk on Risk Management.

Next General Membership Meeting:

Dr. Matt Ballinger will host our next Monday Night Meeting on November 17, 2014. The topic will involve Oral Surgery.

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