



SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

February/March 2018

Ben Shair/Todd Angelo Awards Dinner

Don't miss this year's Dr. Bernard Shair Award and Dr. Todd M. Angelo Memorial Scholarship Presentation to be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the University of Scranton's Brennan Hall. It is very important that all member dentists attend this significant meeting to show support to the amazing students and their families.

The Ben Shair award is a cash gift funded by the SDDS and an endowment fund founded by the family of Dr. Bernard Shair (who passed away in 1982) and administered by the Scranton Area Foundation. It is presented to a University of Scranton student who has been accepted by a dental school and shows tremendous promise in the field of dentistry.

The Dr. Todd M. Angelo Memorial Scholarship is a cash gift funded by the SDDS, the Scranton Area Foundation, and private donations in memory of Dr. Todd Angelo, an SDDS President

Dr. Bernard Shair Award
and Dr. Todd M. Angelo
Memorial Scholarship
Presentation

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

University of Scranton's
Brennan Hall

who unexpectedly passed away. The Scranton Area Foundation administers the scholarship. It is presented to a University of Scranton student who has been accepted by a dental school and who shows tremendous promise in the field of dentistry. This award serves as a reflection of Todd's dedication, service and love of dentistry.

As always, attendance at our general meetings is complimentary and includes the speaker, dinner, and pre-dinner cocktails. Please let Dr. Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel know that you're coming by calling her at 570-343-4472 or emailing at maryg91@hotmail.com.

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Mom-n-PA



Won't you join us as we support the Fourth District Mom-n-PA mission in Reading on May 18 & 19, 2018? Plans are being made to possibly carpool for this exciting event.

The MOM-n-PA mission is a large-scale dental clinic where dental treatment is provided at no cost to individuals who cannot afford dental care. Treatment is provided on a first-come, first-served basis and patients do not preregister.

For more information and to pre-register, go to www.mom-n-pa.com.

As of late, there have been requests from several members to review child abuse requirements. We hope this helps:

Pennsylvania law requires clearances when interacting with or treating children:

New provisions in Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law require individuals to obtain several clearances every five years, in the course of their employment or volunteer activities, if they have either:

- Direct contact with children because they provide care, supervision, guidance or control of children, AND
- Routine interaction with children defined as "regular and repeated contact that is integral to a person's employment responsibilities."

To help determine which members of your dental office staff need certifications, you may want to consult with your insurance carrier or attorney. However, PDA advises members to err on the side of caution and have all staff having any contact with children obtain the certifications. The following certifications are needed to comply with this law:

- Report of criminal history from PA State Police
- Child Abuse History Certification from PA Department of Human Services
- Federal criminal history from FBI Use these websites for instructions and links to apply for these certifications:
- keepkidssafe.pa.gov/clearances/index
- www.dhs.pa.gov/publications/ndaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/index.htm#.VxeinvkrK70
- www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

You are required to keep copies of your certifications, and those of your employees. You must also require prospective employees to produce these documents prior to employment. Clearances obtained for volunteer purposes cannot be used for employment purposes, but employment clearances are acceptable for volunteer activities. To ensure that you are in full compliance with Pennsylvania's child abuse laws, be sure to register for PDA's custom designed CE course (Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Requirements for Dental Professionals), which is offered in multiple locations across the state for both members and your professional dental staff. This program will fulfill the two-hour training requirement and

count toward the CE credit hours you need to renew your dental license in March 2019. Here's a link to course information:

www.padental.org/Online/Events/Child_Abuse_CE.aspx

Please email the government relations staff at mss@padental.org or cfm@pa-dental.org, or call (800) 223-0016, with any questions or concerns.

PDA's Assignment of Benefit Legislation Passes the Senate

On January 23, 2018, the Senate of Pennsylvania passed SB 373, PDA's legislation requiring insurers to assign benefits, on patient's request, to non-participating dentists. SB 373 now moves to the House Insurance Committee in the House of Representatives.

Assignment of benefits legislation is PDA's top priority this legislative session. PDA's lobbyist, staff and volunteer leaders drafted the legislation, found sponsors to introduce bills in both the House of Representatives and Senate, and spearheaded negotiations in both chambers to garner enough support for legislative leaders to begin moving the bill through the Senate. It is a monumental feat moving an insurance bill, one ardently opposed by the insurance lobby, through the legislature. PDA's strength in advocacy proves that your dues dollars are hard at work!

PDA is very optimistic that the House of Representatives will pass SB 373 before the end of session in late fall. Help us keep the momentum going passing this important insurance practice reform legislation to the Governor for his signature! Stay tuned for PDA's action alerts requesting that you contact your Representative to educate them about assignment of benefits and the need to support SB 373. We need a united front to counter the insurance lobbyists hard at work opposing this bill.

Your participation in this process is essential to moving SB 373 through the House of Representatives and on to Governor Wolf for his signature. Please contact your Representative today and request his or her support for SB 373. It will only take a few minutes of your time--we provide talking points below. The PDA provides an easy link and sample letter to send to your state representative. To do so, sign onto the PDA website and click on the scrolling menu titled "Assignment of Benefits."

Need your Representative's contact information? Contact PDA's government relations staff at (800) 223-0016 or mss@padental.org Or log on to www.legis.state.pa.us

and search under "Find My Legislator." Consider contacting all 203 representatives. They need to hear from as many dentists as possible as to why it is so important for Pennsylvania to pass assignment of benefits legislation!

PDA thanks the hundreds of you who responded to our action alerts on this legislation. This victory illustrates how the collective voice of organized dentistry can make a positive difference for your profession and patients!

REASONS TO ENACT ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS

- Some patients cannot see their dentist of choice because some insurance companies do not directly pay the non-participating provider, and the patient cannot afford to pay for services upfront. Dentists who do not require advanced payment may never be paid for services rendered. This insurance practice unfairly inhibits patients from seeking care from their dentist of choice, even though they are paying for a benefit that should be able to be applied to any provider, regardless of whether or not the provider participates with the insurance plan. The insurance is a purchased product and belongs to the patient.

- Absence of assignment of benefits legislation forces patients to pay upfront for treatment they may not be able to afford. This can be particularly difficult for divorced or separated parents, single parents and low-income families. It would be much easier for patients to have the ability to assign their dental benefit directly to the provider.

- Parents who are divorced or separated may experience the problem where one parent has custody of a child, while the other parent carries the insurance. The latter may never send the insurance check to the custodial parent, who had to pay for services upfront. Faced with this situation, many custodial parent postpone or avoid care altogether. This could also impact the dentist, who sympathizes with the parent and sees the child without requiring advanced payment. Often, these dentists are never paid.

- Patients residing in rural areas are placed at a disadvantage as there may only be a handful of dentists who are in-network. Patients may have to incur more traveling time and expense to seek treatment from an in-network provider, rather than being treated by a non-participating dentist who practices in closer proximity.

- Twenty-three other states have enacted assignment of benefits laws.

President's Letter

Hello to all,

I hope everyone is surviving the winter. As March falls upon us, hopefully the warm weather will soon follow.



I'm writing this letter with a heavy heart as we have all recently lost two close friends with the recent passing of Dr. Angelo Costanzo and Dr. Myron Pavuk. They both have been great assets and representatives of our society and our profession for well over 50 years. Please remember Angelo and Myron's families in your thoughts and prayers. These wonderful men will be truly missed by all.

I want to sincerely thank all of those who are presently participating in NCDHM. Our mall event this year was held at Viewmont and was a great success. Over 8,000 bags will be given to children in our community this year. Special thanks to Dr. Megan Azar and Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel, our co-chairs for NCDHM, Dr. Brian Kerr who showed off his magical talents at the Scranton Library, along with our marketing director Cindy Cox, as usual, for all her tireless efforts. This type of community

service truly defines our society, and I hope we can continue to enhance our outreach programs in the future.

Also in the works this year will be a Pitt alumni ("Pittstop") event, featuring dental school dean B.J. Costello, to be held in Scranton August 11th. Doctors JR Karam, Sam Abod, and Gary Kopesky have graciously offered to spearhead this exciting event. More details to follow.

I invite all members to attend next month's meeting when we present the Dr. Bernard Shair Award along with the Dr. Todd Angelo award to this year's recipients. These awards include a monetary gift to the recipient, but more importantly bestows upon them the special passion, dedication, and service that was so evident in both Dr. Shair and Dr. Angelo. The five candidates for the award this year, incidentally, were all amazing, making the selection process particularly difficult. Our profession's future is in great hands if these kids are any indication of what's to come! A good showing from our members for these presentations at our general meeting on March 20th will mean a lot to these award winners and their families.

One of the biggest events to hit NEPA is coming in June of 2019! Mom-n-PA is scheduled for the first time to be held in

our area at the Mohegan Sun Arena next June. If you'd like to get a feel for what will happen, feel free to sign up for this year's event, which will be held in Reading on May 18th and 19th. You may sign up by going to the site at Mom-n-Pa.com (this could be fun)!

I would also encourage members to mark their calendars for April 26th through April 28th. The annual PDA meeting (our 150th Anniversary) will once again and for the last time, by the way, be held in Hershey. The field of dentistry continues to face significant roadblocks in the future in terms of reimbursements, mid level providers, and corporate dentistry. Your voice is needed and one way to have it heard is to attend the PDA meeting, continue to support your local district, and be involved in some aspect of organized dentistry.

As spring draws closer, many exciting events are on the horizon for SDDS. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your help in making our society a great asset to its members and the community.

I wish you all the best and hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Chuck Scrimalli, SDDS president

Minutes

Submitted by Megan Azar, Secretary

An executive board meeting was held at Bazil's Restaurant on February 6, 2018 at 6:30. It was attended by Joe Kelly, Mike Ratchford, Tom Langan Jr., Kurt Wadsworth, JR Karam, Jessica Falk, Matt Zale, Megan Azar, Eli Stavisky, and Chuck Scrimalli.

- The meeting was called to order by Kurt Wadsworth. Minutes from previous meeting were accepted. He began with a brief discussion on the MOM in Pa program scheduled for May 18 and 19 in Reading, PA and the plans for June 2019 locally at Mohegan Sun Arena are being coordinated by Chris Kotchick. All are encouraged to volunteer. He thanked Benco Dental for their donation of a dental chair for the NCDHM Viewmont Mall event last weekend, as well as Henry Schein for their donation of disposable mirrors for the event.
- JR Karam discussed plans for an upcoming "Pittstop" event on August 11 for Pittsburgh Alumni, as well as a private dinner that all dentists from SDDS are welcome to attend.
- A lengthy discussion followed regarding the

Assignment of Benefits Bill that went through the senate and is going to the house for a vote. Chuck Scrimalli urged those present to go to PDA website- (padental.org >click on Advocacy->click on PDA action alerts->follow directions on how to get in touch with your congressman). Eli Stavisky recommended writing your own letter as a way to advocate for changes. He stressed concerns that it is vitally important for dentists to be sending letters to their representatives because it will make a difference in our practices, and we need to be contacting our peers to do the same.

- A lengthy discussion began regarding a few local groups who are contacting the SDDS for donated dental services: The Wright Center, Jewish Family Services, and Women in Philanthropy are all trying to serve the dental needs of the public and we began a dialog to talk about options. Joe Kelly, Chuck Scrimalli, and Eli Stavisky made some suggestions for reimbursement including using a Medicare fee schedule, or at least 50% of our fee so volunteers would get paid something toward the overhead expenses.
- Jessica Falk reported on the groups and their

needs: Women in Philanthropy are delving into many aspects of the community including dental and are trying to develop a pilot program of helping women in the community receive dental care. This program is just being developed, but all agreed that we are interested in supporting it. The Wright Center in Jessup has a dental clinic, which is looking for volunteers. Some concerning questions were discussed. Jewish Family Services continues to be supported by the SDDS. It was suggested that we create guidelines for their administration so that appropriate patients get sent to the appropriate offices. It was suggested that a dental focused social worker might be a good use of their resources.

- Matt Zale spoke briefly regarding the PDA 150th anniversary meeting. Recommends we all attend this elegant affair in Hershey in April 2018.
 - Eli Stavisky recommended the SDDS endorse all 4 candidates, including Al Giallorenzi, for the open position on the State Board of Dentistry.
 - Next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 6, 2018. All are encouraged to attend.
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Upcoming Events

Board Meeting	Bazil's	March 6, 2018	6:30 PM
CE Course <i>Actions and Algorithms for Medical Emergencies</i>	Radisson	March 14, 2018	8:00 AM
Ben Shair/Todd Angelo Awards Dinner	U of S-Brennan Hall	March 20, 2018	6:30 PM
CE Course <i>The Dentist's Role in the Identification, Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Related Breathing Disorders</i>	Radisson	April 11, 2018	8:00 AM
PDA Annual Meeting	Hotel Hershey	April 27-28, 2018	8:00 AM
Mom-N-PA	Reading	May 18-19, 2018	8:00 AM
Golf Tournament	Scranton Country Club	June 20, 2018	8:00 AM
Mom-N-PA	Mohegan Sun Arena	June 17-18, 2019	8:00 AM