



SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

September 2017



October's General Meeting

Don't miss our fall general meeting featuring Stephen D. Muench, DDS, MS, MAGD who will talk about practice transition and valuation. Dr Stephen Muench graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1976 and from Temple University Dental School in 1980. He has owned two individual practices, the first of which grew from scratch into a very reputable and successful multi-specialty practice in Pottsville. Circumstances brought about the opportunity to open a practice in Pine Grove, PA in 1991 where Dr. Muench practiced solo with a focus on adult restorative dentistry until he sold the practice in 2009. Since selling the practice, Dr. Muench has had numerous opportunities in dentistry, including the opportunity to be employed by a large corporate entity with practices in 17 states. His role was Director of Clinical Operations, oversee-



ing 35 dentists in 13 practices in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Dr. Muench has trained extensively with Peter Dawson and at the Pankey Institute, both in Florida. He earned his MAGD in 2004. Currently, Dr. Muench is "semi-retired," but continues to work a reduced clinical schedule in Minersville, PA.

Dr. Muench has a strong interest and background in general business, including all aspects of retail business, real estate, investment strategies and new business planning. He earned a Master's Degree in Real Estate Development and Investment from NYU in 1991 and has held licenses in Real Estate, various insurance products and annuities, and the Series 6 and 63 licenses for mutual fund sales.

Dr. Muench has been a dental practice transition consultant with Paragon

Dental Practice Transitions since 2006, serving all of Eastern PA initially, but with a focus on NEPA since 2015. Paragon is a national company specializing in Dual Representation, representing both the seller and the buyer in dental practice transitions, with a focus on creating equitable transitions and win/win results for both parties.

As always, cocktails and dinner are complimentary for members. Please reserve your spot by calling or emailing Dr. Chuck Scrimalli at 570-689-2449 or chuckmarias@yahoo.com.

President's Dinner

Invitations were sent out for our annual President's Dinner, honoring 2016 President Dr. Stephanie Hanyon. This



year's celebration will be held Saturday, September 23, 2017, 6 – 11 PM at AV Restaurant (Penn Avenue in Scranton). The entire restaurant will be dedicated to our evening of cocktails, music and dinner. If you haven't done so already, please mail in your RSVP card.



Annual Golf Tourney



The SDDS annual golf tournament held in June at the Scranton Country Club was a huge success. As a result of the sponsorships, a large donation was made to the ARC! Thank you to all our sponsors and golfers.

PDA Action Alert: Write letter to SBOD to Oppose Regulations

If you haven't already responded to the mailing sent by the SDDS, please consider doing so by opposing regulations for expanding PHDHP site locations.

In September, the State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) will vote whether to initiate the formal regulatory process for draft regulations that would expand the practice locations for Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PHDHPs) to include the following locations:

- Private settings of hospice and homebound patients.
- Primary care settings (including physician offices).
- Childcare settings.

PDA opposes these draft regulations. The SBOD is seeking comment regarding the proposed regulations. PDA is asking all members to send a personal letter opposing the draft regulations. The SBOD will take all comments into consideration before voting, so it is vital that it hears from as many dentists as possible.

Legislative Issues

PDA knows that of all factors impacting the dental practice, the practices of third-party payers are probably the most important. Enacting insurance reforms in Pennsylvania is no easy task, but the PDA is committed to representing members' interests before the legislature and the Governor's Administration. PDA's staff and lobbyists work with members to identify the issues of most concern to dentists, develop legislative initiatives and political strategy and engage with policymakers to enact meaningful reforms. PDA's legislative agenda includes:

- Prohibiting insurers from capping the fees participating dentists may charge patients for non-covered services.
- Limiting the time frame in which insurers may retroactively deny dental claims so that small dental businesses are not adversely affected by unwarranted denials years after a claim was paid.
- Lobbying for assignment of benefits so that dentists receive payment directly for services rendered even if they are not participating with the insurer and patients are able to see their provider of choice. (Matt and I will be meeting with our state Senator tomorrow regarding this issue)
- Mandating more insurance coverage for dental-related treatment, including TMJ disorders, cleft palate and general anesthesia when needed to treat young children and special needs patients.
- Advocating for more funding in the state's Medical Assistance insurance program.
- Supporting legislation that would allow dentists to collectively negotiate contract terms with health insurance companies (a big victory for us recently-- repeal of the McCarron Ferguson antitrust exemption)
- Lobbying for the continued inclusion of dental coverage in the state's CHIP and adult Basic insurance programs."

Bills Introduced This Session:

Insurer Credentialing

Rep. Matt Baker introduced legislation which would require health care providers to use the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare credentialing application.

Assignment of Benefits

SB 373 and HB 823 require insurers to honor patients' request to as-

sign benefits directly to dentists even if their dentist of choice does not participate with the insurer.

Regulating Mail-Order Orthodontics

Rep. Thomas Murt introduced legislation that would make it unlawful for dental technicians and dental labs to furnish orthodontic appliances unless a dentist has first examined the patient.

Licensee Reporting Requirements and Suspensions

Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks) introduced SB 354, legislation that would require all licensees, registrants and certificate holders to report any disciplinary conduct by any licensing board or an arrest, indictment or conviction.

Prohibiting Restrictive Covenants Not to Compete in Health Care Provider Employment Contracts

Rep. Anthony DeLuca (D-Allegheny) reintroduced legislation prohibiting the use of non-compete clauses in health care practitioner employment contracts.

Electronic Prescription for Controlled Substances

Rep. Tedd Nesbit introduced legislation that would require health care providers to use electronic prescriptions to prescribe controlled substances.

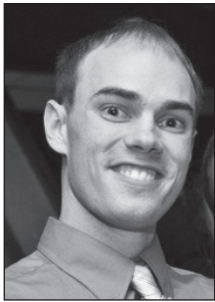
Third District Meeting

Mark your calendars for the November 10th Third District meeting at Mohegan Sun Casino. The continuing education course will cover opioid abuse. Watch your mail and the next newsletter for more information!



President's Letter

Dr. Kurt Wadsworth



As summer winds down and fall is in the air, we have a lot to look forward to. The President's dinner, honoring Stephanie Hanyon, will be held on September 23rd. Looking forward to seeing a great turnout to celebrate a great year of SDDS leadership! Our final general meeting of 2017 will be held October 17th, and we have another great speaker, Dr. Stephen Muench. Dr. Muench is going to share his expertise regarding practice transitions. Hope to see you there!

Just a quick update on summer events: The annual golf outing was once again a success. We had perfect weather for a fun day to support a great cause. Thanks to Drs. Karam and Bonacci, who have devoted a lot of time to grow this event into what it is today. And thank you to all of you who came out to strut your stuff on the course!

On a serious note, we are currently facing some crucial legislation at the state level. The State Board will soon be voting on whether or not to expand the practice of Public Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PDHPs). As you read in the letter you recently received, there are many dangers to our patients associated with such expansion. If you have not already done so, please consider contacting the State Board expressing your concern immediately. The SDDS board

has been working very hard to fight on your behalf, so please help us get our message across. We need all the support we can get!

Additionally, SDDS board members recently met with Senator John Blake to lobby for assignment of benefits. This would allow non-participating dentists to be reimbursed directly by the insurance company. Please be aware that our board is working hard behind the scenes to advocate on our behalf. We need your support to ensure that our profession remains strong and continues to have a voice. If you are looking for a way to become involved to support organized dentistry, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,

Kurt Wadsworth D.M.D
SDDS- President

Minutes

Submitted by Dr. Mary Grace Rizzo Fryzel

The last board meeting was held at Basil Restaurant on August 8, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

Present:

Chuck Scrimalli, Stephanie Hanyon, J.R. Karam, Kurt Wadsworth, Jessica Falk, Mary Grace Rizzo Fryzel, and Cindy Cox.

Topics Discussed:

- Biggest threat to our profession in a long time: draft proposal from the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) seeking to expand practice sites for Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PHDHP) to include private settings of hospice and homebound patients, childcare settings, and physician's offices. The expansion of PHDHP practice sites as proposed by the SBOD will jeopardize patient safety and allow a standard of care below what is expected. Midlevel public health dental hygienists can register for MA # --Please oppose

this draft! The state board meets Sept 15th regarding this issue. Get the word out. Sign a letter by September 15th and send it to the council.

- October 17th - next general meeting.
- President's dinner September 23rd at AV for Stephanie Hanyon.
- Board meeting dates were discussed.
- September 12th, 5-7 pm at the Hilton. Women in philanthropy meeting. Ask Jessica Falk for details. She will send email.
- October 17th Practice Transitions general meeting.
- The ARC picnic/fundraiser on Sunday, September 17th is a fun kid and family friendly event, with lots of food, games, live music, featuring East Coast Trio and The Wanabees, raffles, and more. Hours are 3-8. This is a fun day and all are invited to attend. Kurt Wadsworth will be presenting our donation of \$3250.00 at about 5:00pm with hopefully a photo op for all SDDS members in

attendance. Ticket (donations) for adults are \$20 at the door, children 4-12 is \$5, 3 and under, free. Adult pre-sale tickets are available for \$15.

- A motion was made and approved to make this additional donation of \$3250.00 to ARC, making this year's total ARC donation \$5000.00.

2017 Officers

Third District President

Dr. Christopher Kotchick

Third District Treasurer

Dr. Joseph Kelly

Third District Secretary

Dr. Samantha Abod

Third District Trustee

Dr. Matthew Zale

President – Dr. Kurt Wadsworth

Pres-Elect – Dr. Charles Scrimalli

V.P. – Dr. Megan Azar

Treasurer – Dr. Jessica Falk

Secretary – Dr. Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel

Newsletter Editor - Dr. Fred Bonacci

Board of Directors:

Dr. Samantha Abod

Dr. Marty Bifano

Dr. Fred Bonacci

Dr. Kady Schloesser

Upcoming Events

Women in Philanthropy Meeting	Hilton	September 12, 2017	5:00 PM
Third District Board Meeting	Westmoreland Club	September 13, 2017	6:00 PM
ARC Check Presentation & Fundraiser	Waldorf Park	September 17, 2017	3 – 5:00 PM
President's Dinner	AV Restaurant	September 23, 2017	6:00 PM
SDDS Board Meeting	Bazil's Restaurant	October 3, 2017	6:30 PM
General Meeting	U of S – Brennan Hall	October 17, 2017	6:30 PM
Third District CE Opioid Abuse	Mohegan Sun	November 10, 2017	8:00 AM