



# SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

December 2017

## NCHDM Scheduled

National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) is quickly approaching! February 2018 will feature exciting FREE events for the community all month long. We are still solidifying dates for the Tooth Fairy Day at the Children's Library and Free Screenings at a local mall, but we are all set for the McDonald's events (see below). This year's McDonald's theme will be Star Wars, featuring the costumed characters Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, and Chewbacca. Of course, our Tooth Fairy will be the featured guest, taking photos with all the kids!

Our friends at the ARC are already busily preparing 8,000 goodie bags for our community giveaways. We are continuing the tradition of visiting local elementary schools, teaching the kids about good dental habits and



*NCDHM Chair Dr. Megan Azar sees the first patient at the Mall.*

providing them with bags featuring a toothbrush, toothpaste, educational material, stickers and coloring sheets. Please contact Dr. Megan Azar at (570) 585-7111 or [azarwalshdental@frontier.com](mailto:azarwalshdental@frontier.com) to reserve your complimentary

bags and alert her to the school you will be visiting.

We are always looking for volunteers to attend the events. It's good to have a doctor or two on hand to answer questions, if need be. Please let Mary Grace Rizzo Fryzel know if you can attend by emailing her at [maryg91@hotmail.com](mailto:maryg91@hotmail.com).

**Viewmont Mall Dental Screenings**  
February 3, 2018, time TBA

**South Side McDonalds**  
February 8, 2018, 4:00-6:00 PM

**Carbondale McDonalds**  
February 15, 2018, 4:00-6:00 PM

**Tunkhannock McDonalds**  
February 24, 2018, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

**Children's Library TBA**

## Mom-n-PA

Won't you join us as the Third District hosts the 2019 Mom-n-PA mission? Plans are being made for this exciting event slated to occur June 2019 at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

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.

The inaugural two-day mission took place in Philadelphia in 2013. With the help of 1,001 volunteers, MOM-n-PA provided \$850,000 in free dental care to 1,820 patients. The second mission



took place in Allentown, Pennsylvania where they provided care to 2,047 patients and 1,020 volunteers donated \$1,004,179 worth of care to those in need. The 2015 mission took place in Harrisburg where 976 volunteers

provided \$875,905 worth of care to 1,705 patients. The 2016 mission took place in Pittsburgh. 1,008 volunteers and our sponsors provided over \$841,959 worth of dental care to the underserved! In the 2017 mission in Erie, there were 736 underserved patient visits and \$600,798 worth of donated dental care!

As of today, MOM-n-PA has completed 25,925 procedures on 7,255 patients. The total value of dental care donated is \$4,172,841 and they have had 4,005 volunteers.

For more information on the 2018 mission in Reading May 18 & 19th, go to <http://www.mom-n-pa.com>.

## ADA Applauds CMS Decision To Remove Part C, D Requirements.

On November 16, 2017, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid announced proposed changes to Medicare drug plans, including rescinding the requirement that dentists enroll in or validly opt-out of Medicare in order for a Part D

drug prescriptions to be covered. The proposed rule also contains changes to Medicare Part C, including rescinding the current provision requiring dentists be enrolled in Medicare in order to provide supplemental services to patients enrolled in Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage plans.

The ADA News (12/5/17, Garvin) also reports CMS “has not rescinded the two-year opt-out period for providers, meaning dentists who acted in good faith and chose to opt out of

the program are still prohibited from accepting payments for services covered by Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage plans.” As a result, the claims of patients who receive care from a provider who opted out within the past two years will still be denied.

For more information on the requirement changes and a list of opted out providers, visit [CMS.gov](http://CMS.gov). For information on all of the ADA’s advocacy efforts, visit [ADA.org/advocacy](http://ADA.org/advocacy).

## Many things are happening within the PDA!

Read more on the following topics:

1. Online sign up for 2018
2. Registering to receive texts from PDA
3. CHIP
4. Assignment of benefits legislation

### Online Sign-Up

In order to encourage members to renew our 2018 membership online prior to December 31st, the PDA will automatically enter you into a drawing for several great prizes, including an airline voucher, Ipad mini, a Fitbit, or a GoPro camera.

### Register to Receive PDA Texts

In an effort to better communicate with us, the PDA would now like to communicate important information through texting, however they will need your permission to do so. Please go to the PDA website, and from the homepage, click on “Membership,” and then click on “texting authorization.” If you would rather a paper form to fax to the PDA, you can print one from the site.

### CHIP

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) is

implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Provider Screening and Enrollment provisions which require all providers who render services to CHIP enrollees to enroll with DHS. Federal regulations require states to screen CHIP providers the same as it does Medical Assistance (MA) providers. The deadline fast approaching!

To enroll, providers must complete an enrollment application appropriate for their provider type and submit all required documents. If a provider is already enrolled in the MA program, the provider does not need to enroll again in CHIP.

CHIP-only providers will receive a provider ID number but they will not in any way be identified as MA providers. DHS officials warn that CHIP-only providers who wait to enroll until close to the December 31, 2017 deadline run the risk of disrupting services to patients and claim submission and reimbursement. CHIP-only providers are strongly encouraged to submit an enrollment application as soon as possible, so DHS staff has time to process the application before the deadline.

### Assignment of Benefits Legislation

PDA has lobbied for years for the passage of assignment of benefits legislation, which would require insurers, on patients’ request, to assign

benefits directly to dentists, even if they are non-participating providers. On October 24, PDA accomplished a monumental task while contending with intense opposition from insurance lobbyists. The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee passed SB 373, PDA’s assignment of benefits legislation, with a vote of 9-6.

The fight is far from over. PDA expects the insurance lobby to ramp up its efforts to “kill” the bill even more as SB 373 moves to the Appropriations Committee for consideration, then the full Senate for a vote. Action on our part is necessary to pass this bill in the Senate and over to the House of Representatives. The insurance industry has many lobbyists and deep pockets. But the voice of organized dentistry is thousands strong, and represents both dentists and patients. Senators just need to hear from all of us, and they need to hear from us soon. If they don’t, your Senator will assume this legislation is not important to dentists, and there is a good chance the insurance lobbyists will prevail and that SB 373 will not move any further in the legislative process.

Need your Senator’s contact information? Contact John Basial at (800) 223-0016, extension 108, or [jpb@padental.org](mailto:jpb@padental.org). Or log on to [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) and search under “Find My Legislator.”

# Minutes

*Submitted by Cindy Cox*

A board meeting was held at Bazil Restaurant on November 14, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

## **Present**

Bill Burdyn, Justin Burns, Cindy Cox, Chris Kotchick, Tom and Brendan Langan, Al Matrone, Chuck Scrimalli, Eli Stavisky, and Kurt Wadsworth.

According to the Treasurers report, SDDS is down \$20k. This deficit is not unusual for this time of year as CE payments have not all come in yet.

## **Chris Kotchick**

- 6 hours of the Third District CE Course can be applied to the 30 hours requirement. There were 191 people at the Third District course.
- OSHA & radiology will be the topics for next year's Third District CE course on 11/9/18.
- ADA has number two PAC (Political Action Committee). We are the only one that actually has a "house" on the Hill. We need to educate our legislators!!! Dentists need to get out and talk to them.
- Go to ada.org to donate to disaster relief fund. Need help for ADA foundation. Motion made to donate \$1000 by Justin. Second by Chuck. All favored.

## **Chuck Scrimalli**

- 1/9/18 is the next board meeting at Bazil's.
- 1/10/18 is the next CE Course.
- Assignment of benefits Senate bill 373 is important to us. Please lobby your Senator to get the bill to the floor.
- Please note that for CHIP providers, the deadline for signing up with DHS is December 31st, 2017.

- If renewing PDA dues, do it online. Dentists can win great prizes.

## **Bill Burdyn**

Came to discuss the possibility of forming a group health insurance plan for SDDS as well as issues involving the recent PHDHP vote at the SBOD meeting.

## **Kurt Wadsworth**

Diane from the Jewish Community Center called him. Andy Brown is now in charge. They need a new list from us.

## **NCDHM/Cindy Cox**

- Are we having an event at the Steamtown mall? There is an aquarium coming. Justin is calling Steamtown about aquarium. If not, consider changing.
- Are we spending money to print school flyers to advertise the Mall event (free screenings)? Perhaps Moses Taylor foundation money will assist? Maybe they would pay for flyers?
- Cindy will find out if Scranton school district does email or messaging system to promote.

## **Eli Stavisky**

Discussed the push for Medicare as a potential replacement for health/medical insurance and how it may or may not apply to Dentistry down the road.

## **Justin Burns**

- Will submit request to Moses Taylor foundation for NCDHM.
- Volunteered to spearhead inviting reps to executive board meeting. Maybe include Third District?
- Next Third District meeting is at the Westmorland club 1/17/18.
- Made motion that president's family does not pay for attendance at president's dinner. Kurt seconded. All favored.

## **Tom Langan**

- Suggested telling dentists more about what SDDS does at each dental meeting, making sure include info in newsletters.
- Ask mall stores to donate coupons for NCDHM.

## **Al Matrone**

Discussed inviting legislators to our golf tourney as a good opportunity to meet and discuss some of our pertinent issues.

## **Brendan Langan**

Discussed MA insurance issues as they relate to access to care.

## 2018 Slate of Officers

### **Third District President**

Dr. John Evans

### **Third District Treasurer**

Dr. Joseph Kelly

### **Third District Secretary**

Dr. Samantha Abod

### **Third District Trustee**

Dr. Matthew Zale

### **President**

Dr. Charles Scrimalli

### **Pres-Elect**

Dr. Mary Grace Rizzo Fryzel

### **V.P.**

Dr. Sam Abod

### **Treasurer**

Dr. Jessica Falk

### **Secretary**

Dr. Megan Azar

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dr. Fred Bonacci

### **Board of Directors:**

Dr. Andrew Brown (JCC chair)

Dr. Thomas Langan

Dr. Brendan Langan

Dr. Al Matrone

Dr. JoEllen Drosinski

Dr. Mike Ratchford

Dr. Chris Kotchick

# Upcoming Events

<b>Board Meeting</b>	Bazil's	January 9, 2018	6:30 PM
<b>CE Course</b> <i>Practical Oral Surgery for the General Practitioner</i>	Radisson	January 10, 2018	8:00 AM
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	Viewmont Mall	February 3, 2018	TBA
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	South Side McDonalds	February 8, 2018	4:00-6:00 PM
<b>CE Course</b> <i>Oral Pathology</i>	Radisson	February 14, 2018	8:00 AM
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	Carbondale McDonalds	February 15, 2018	4:00-6:00 PM
<b>General Meeting</b>	U of S Brennan Hall Rose Room	February 20, 2018	6:30 PM
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	Tunkhannock McDonalds	February 24, 2018	11:00 AM-1:00 PM
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	Children's Library	TBA	
<b>CE Course</b> <i>Actions and Algorithms for Medical Emergencies</i>	Radisson	March 14, 2018	8:00 AM
<b>CE Course</b> <i>The Dentist's Role in the Identification, Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Related Breathing Disorders</i>	Radisson	April 11, 2018	8:00 AM
<b>PDA Annual Meeting</b>	Hotel Hershey	April 27-28, 2018	8:00 AM