



# SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

January/February 2018

## NCHDM at Viewmont Mall!



*Brian Kerr at the Children's Library in Scranton.*

### Volunteers are needed for NCDHM

Co-Chairs Megan Azar and Mary Grace Rizzo Fryzel are excited to announce that the SDDS will be providing free, children's dental screenings for National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) at the Viewmont Mall on Saturday, February 3rd, 12 – 3 PM.

"This is a very exciting event for the SDDS! We will have access to hundreds of children who may not have a dental home. We believe our mission to educate the local community through this year's NCDHM will be even further-reaching with this event," says

Mary Grace. Volunteers are needed to perform simple exams during the hours of noon and 3 pm. If you can help, please contact Mary Grace directly at [maryg91@hotmail.com](mailto:maryg91@hotmail.com) or 570-343-4472.

Dr. Brian Kerr will be leading our event at the Children's Library on Sunday, February 18th at 2:30 PM. Using his magic show as a way to explain good dental hygiene, Brian always delights his audience! The Tooth Fairy will be on hand for story-time and photos as well.

Three area McDonald's will also be hosting Tooth Fairy Days. The Scranton, Tunkhannock, and Carbondale McDonalds will be featuring complimentary photos with the Tooth Fairy and Star Wars characters.

Volunteer dentists are always needed for our NCDHM events...especially if an interested parent has a question. If you can spend an hour or two at one (or more!) of them, please let Mary Grace or Megan know.

We are continuing the tradition of visiting local elementary schools, teaching the kids about good dental habits and 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. The bags go quickly so they are on a first come, first served basis.

### Mall Dental Screenings

February 3, 2018 - 12:00–3:00 PM

### South Side McDonalds

February 8, 2018 - 5:00-7:00 PM

### Carbondale McDonalds

February 15, 2018 - 5:00-7:00 PM

### Children's Library

February 18, 2018 - 2:30 PM

### Tunkhannock McDonalds

February 24, 2018 -11:00 AM-1:00 PM

## Mom-n-PA



Won't you join us as we support the Third 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](http://www.mom-n-pa.com).

Online registration opens 2/1/18

## Oil Pulling

I'm sure many of you have received questions from your patients recently regarding oil pulling and charcoal toothpastes. Following is a blog from the ADA that may help when responding: *"Oil Pulling, Charcoal Toothpastes Among Fads "Wreaking Havoc" On Teeth.*

The Daily Mail (12/26, Thompson) lists several dental fads that dentists say are "wreaking havoc with people's teeth." For example, while some celebrities swear by beginning each day with a glass of hot water and lemon, dentists warn that sipping the beverage regularly could erode enamel due to its acidity. In another example, the article states that although some oil pulling advocates are endorsing the ancient practice as a way to improve

oral health and whiten teeth, there is "no scientific proof" to support these claims. Similarly, "despite the recent surge in charcoal toothpastes on the market," a dentist notes that "there is inadequate data to prove the safety and efficacy claims of charcoal and charcoal-based oral health products."

Dental professionals can direct their patients to MouthHealthy.org, ADA's consumer website, for evidence-based information about teeth whitening, including information on natural teeth whitening methods. MouthHealthy.org also provides information on oil pulling, noting that "the American Dental Association does not recommend oil pulling as a dental hygiene practice."

A literature review published in The Journal of the American Dental Association found insufficient evidence to support the efficacy claims of charcoal products."

## Did you know the ADA has a credentialing service?

The ADA Credentialing Service is a new member benefit to streamline the credentialing process, allowing you to input, store, and update your professional credentials in one centralized location. This service:

- Will help save time and eliminate repetitive paperwork
- Easily uploads and stores supporting documents
- Provides a centralized database available to payers, hospitals, and employers
- Notifies you when information is due to expire
- Takes 20 minutes or less to complete
- Is secure and is designed specifically for the dental market

To register your credentials, log onto [www.ADA.org/credentialing](http://www.ADA.org/credentialing).

Your ADA user ID and password are required

## Did you know...

### —that PDA has a mentoring program?

Through Connections, dental students and new dentists can request mentors based on criteria like practice location, practice type and specialty. Mentors are contacted if they are a suitable match based on a mentee's request.

PDA's New Dentist Committee is sponsoring an incentive for mentors – after you sign up as a mentor, receive a match and make contact with the mentee, you will be mailed a check for \$50. You can use this money to take your mentee out to lunch or dinner or cover the mentee's cost to attend a local meeting with you. Any activity to help foster your mentoring connection!

Enroll as a mentor or mentee now by clicking the appropriate enrollment button below. With questions, please contact the membership department at (717) 234-5941.

### Did you know about the PDA placement service?

The PDA placement service is a members-only, job search assistance program. It connects dentists who have

available job opportunities or practices for sale with dentists seeking employment or to purchase a practice. Electronic enrollment is complimentary for membership.

### Who Can Subscribe

- PDA members
- ADA members looking to relocate to Pennsylvania
- ASDA members starting January 1 of their fourth year of dental school. Non-ASDA members after graduation.
- Dental residents who are ADA members

### How Do I Subscribe?

Please log into your account. Next Click below to submit either a Seeker or a Provider enrollment form:

Your listing and access to the Placement Service will be valid for six months. You will be contacted 30 days before your subscription expires regarding renewal.

Enrollment in the Placement Service is complimentary for members. Only members who are enrolled in the Placement Service have access to view any listings. Questions? Contact the PDA Membership Dept.

### Contact Information

Please contact Maria Tommasini at (717) 234-5941, ext. 134 with questions concerning PDA's Placement Service.

## 2018 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. Tom Langan Jr.

### Board of Directors:

Dr. Andrew Brown (JCC chair)

Dr. Thomas Langan Jr.

Dr. Brendan Langan

Dr. Al Matrone

Dr. JoEllen Drosinski

Dr. Mike Ratchford

Dr. Chris Kotchick

### Golf Co-Chair

Fred Bonacci

JR Karam

# President's Letter

Hello everyone.

I hope you've all had a wonderful holiday and wish everyone a healthy and happy 2018. My sincerest thanks to Kurt Wadsworth and our entire board for all the hard work and dedication they have exhibited throughout the past year. Our President-Elect, Mary Grace Rizzo-Fryzel will be arranging some excellent speakers for the upcoming general meetings. They will be held at the University of Scranton, and I hope to see attendance levels continue to grow.



Much has changed since attending my first SDDS meeting at the Scranton Club in 1984. Feeling nostalgic, I thought it would be fun to mention that some of the chitchat concerned how we would cope with wearing gloves and masks, or whether we should ban smoking at our meetings. Of course there were many very serious issues as well, but our society seemed to have so many committed, passionate, intelligent people in leadership positions that I somehow knew all would be handled well. And that is what has not changed throughout the years; in fact, I have been awed by our society's leadership every year since then.

For this reason I am greatly humbled and honored to be chosen this year to serve as your president. I hope to represent us well and somehow live up to such high standards. Thanks to all the wonderful people who have volunteered their time and talents to serve on our board this coming year. I personally believe that we have a terrific group of members whom I am proud to call my colleagues as well as my friends. Our involved members contribute so much to making SDDS and our community a better place. Hopefully, everyone feels the same! To remain successful and vital, we must continue as a society to support each other, learn from each other, and reach out to our communities. As February approaches, please remember that it is National Children's Dental Health Month. Please get involved at some of the events that Megan Azar, Mary Grace Rizzo, and our tireless marketing coordinator Cindy Cox have planned for the month! Your continued support is needed! God willing, and with

a great deal of everyone's help, it is my mission to keep our membership informed of the many issues concerning our profession and do my very best to increase membership involvement in organized dentistry.

I look forward to working with you in 2018 to continue the great legacy of the Scranton District Dental Society. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Sincerely, Chuck Scrimalli  
SDDS president

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## February's General Meeting

Don't miss the February 20, 2018 general meeting at the University of Scranton's Brennan Hall (5th floor) featuring speaker Dr. Gary Wegman. Dr. Wegman is running



for Congressional Representative of the 16th District for Pennsylvania. Here is what he says:

After 34 years of working as a dentist, a healthcare provider, a small businessman, and a farmer, I have had enough of the greed, the partisanship, the total lack of leadership, and the politics as usual from the US Congress. It is for these reasons that I have announced my candidacy to be the next Congressional Representative of the 16th District for Pennsylvania on the Democratic ticket. Health reform has stalled, not for a lack of need, but for an unwillingness to take on the special interests that profit from the current system. Now our Congress wants to gut Medicare and Medicaid. Over 60% of the patients in our area's hospitals rely on Medicare and Medicaid. That hurts those patients. That hurts our community hospitals, and that hurts the healthcare in this country. I want to hear your concerns, and I want to work for all of us in the 16th District to build a stronger and unified American Nation.

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.

# Minutes

*Submitted by Cindy Cox*

A board meeting was held at Bazil Restaurant on December 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

**Present** Sam Abod, Andy Brown, Cindy Cox, Joellen Drosinski, Jessica Falk, Tom Langan Jr., Brendan Langan, Al Matrone, Mike Ratchford, Chuck Scrimalli, and Kurt Wadsworth.

**Chuck Scrimalli**

- Along with Jessica Falk, led a discussion on how the SDDS could respond to the Scranton Area Foundation/Women in Philanthropy. How can we help the community? Many liked the idea of dentists volunteering a morning/afternoon occasionally for donated dental services. Also agreed that a quality screening process was necessary. Want to do in own office. Transportation for working poor is an issue. The group liked the thought of using Fortis as the primary "screener."

- Mom-n-PA happening May 18 & 19 in Reading. Need volunteers. Talking about securing a bus for dentists to attend.

- Encouraged all members to sign up for texting reminders through the PDA website.

- Next board meeting date decided, Feb 6th.

**Mary Grace**

- Trying to coordinate new dentist reception to Scranton.

- February 3rd screening event at Viewmont Mall, 12-3 pm, NCHDM. Benco to deliver chairs at 10 AM.

- Working on future speakers for 2018 general meetings.

- JR Karam, Sam Abod and Gary Kopesky will be organizing a Pittsburgh alumni reception in the near future.

**Jessica Falk**

- Asked for a count of those attending the Scranton Area Foundation/Women in Philanthropy meeting January 23, 2018.

- Gave treasurer's report.

**Joe Kelly** Reported that CE Course attendance down. Possible cause is the number of on-line courses offered.

**Cindy Cox** Reported on NCHDM and discussed Scranton School District flyers. Board decided to forego the expense and simply have Scranton to the "One Call" phone reminder.

**Tom Langan** Discussed ideas on how to improve newsletter contents, making it more informative to our younger members.

**Brendan Langan** Discussed some of the problems with Medical Assistance reimbursement.

**Andy Brown** Discussed sending an email to our membership as we are again seeking more volunteers for Jewish Family Services

**Al Matrone** Discussed procuring corporate sponsors for future general meetings.

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# Upcoming Events

<b>Registration for Mon-n-PA Opens</b>		February 1, 2018	
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	Viewmont Mall	February 3, 2018	12:00-3:00 PM
<b>Board Meeting</b>	Bazil's Ristorante	February 6, 2018	6:30 PM
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	South Side McDonalds	February 8, 2018	5:00-7:00 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	5:00-7:00 PM
<b>NCDHM Event</b>	Children's Library	February 18, 2018	2:30 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>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
<b>Mom-N-PA</b>	Reading	May 18-19, 2018	8:00 AM
<b>Golf Tournament</b>	Scranton Country Club	June 2018	8:00 AM
<b>Mom-N-PA</b>	Mohegan Sun Arena	June 17-18, 2019	8:00 AM