

# NEWSLETTER



2015 Vol 5 No 3

## Letter from the President



Looking at the changing leaves I know the cold winter months are not far off. It also means the end of my term as your Fourth District President is rapidly approaching.

This year has certainly gone quickly, but we've managed to accomplish quite a bit in a short time! Not only did we have our annual Saratoga Dental Congress, Women Dentists Meeting, Golf Tournament, and (upcoming) New Dentist Meeting;

we moved the district office to a new location, expanded the CE at the Golf Tournament, started our Dining with Dental Divas program and continued to maintain and grow our district membership.

And I'm very excited for next year! Dr. Seth Farren, your incoming president, has some fantastic plans and ideas, including a wonderful program for the SDC. The SDC will be earlier next year, so mark your calendar for May 5th -6th!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Lynn Martin, our district's Executive Director. Lynn manages to create order out of chaos and keep our district

running smoothly. I'd also like to thank all of the members of the district board. These men and women manage to shuffle busy practices, family and the district business with apparent ease. And that's not easy!

And lastly, thank you to all of you, the Fourth District members for entrusting me with this job for the past year and recognizing the benefits of membership in this wonderful organization!

Dr. Adrienne Korkosz

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# Fourth District Dental Society of New York

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2015 Vol. 5, No. 3

### Fourth District Dental Society of the State of New York

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### NYSDA DELEGATES

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This newsletter is the official publication of the Fourth District Dental Society. It is published three times a year: Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer. Unless officially adopted by the Fourth District Dental Society and so indicated, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the association.

Please contact the Fourth District office with changes to your home or office address, phone number, or email.

## News Updates:

### ADA Meeting November 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Washington D.C.

This year's ADA meeting will be held November 5-8, 2015 in Washington D.C. and will offer over 260 continuing education courses during the four day meeting. The exhibit hall will feature more than 500 vendors for you to review and research the latest dental products and technology. Please plan to attend America's Dental Meeting.

### Dining for Dental Divas

On November 13th there will be a cooking demonstration by Dr. Mark Bauman. Space is limited; RSVP to Lynn at FDDS.

### 4th District New Dentist Meeting

On December 3rd, the 4th District New Dentist meeting will be held at Longfellow's. The focus will be on treatment planning complex cases, with a case presentation and group treatment planning session.

### SDC 2016

Save the date for the next Saratoga Dental Congress on May 5 and 6, 2016.



### Electronic Prescription Deadline

Please be advised that new deadline for mandated electronic prescriptions is **March 27, 2016**. Any dentists who have not yet signed up should do so as soon as possible.

## NYSDF Hosts Successful Event!

On 13 June 2015 at the Turning Stone Casino and Resort in Verona NY, the New York State Dental Foundation hosted their annual Awards Luncheon. This year the luncheon focused on the Gold Fund, a program named for Dr. Stephen B. Gold dedicated to ensuring that children who need dental care but who have fallen through the cracks of the health care system have an avenue to receive necessary treatment. Attendees donated generously and to date we have raised over \$8500 for the purpose of providing grants to give disadvantaged and at-risk children in New York State access to oral health care. The luncheon was a tremendously positive event which perfectly encapsulated the legacy and spirit of Steve Gold's work to improve access to dental care for kids with special needs. If you would like to donate to the Gold Fund you may do so by visiting <http://www.nysdentalfoundation.org/donations.html> or by calling NYSDF at 800-255-2100.

## Pediatric Dental Suite Dedicated to Dr. Tom Lanka

On October 7th, Ellis Hospital unveiled its new Pediatric Dental Suite in honor of Dr. Tom Lanka. Dr. Lanka practiced oral surgery in Schenectady for over 40 years before retiring to focus on dental education. Dr. Lanka helped establish the residency program at Ellis Hospital, formerly known as St. Clements.

In addition to being honored by Ellis Hospital, Dr. Lanka also received a Presidential Citation by the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (NYSSOMS) for his outstanding service. He continues to teach multiple days a week at Ellis and has been voted teacher of the year for three consecutive years. Dr. Lanka has previously held many distinguished positions within organized dentistry, including president of the Fourth District. His role in organized dentistry and within the residency program at Ellis has established him as a leader and mentor to many local dentists.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Lanka for his continuing contribution and outstanding legacy to the profession of dentistry.



Dr. Kirk Gleason, Mrs. Lenore Lanka, Dr. Tom Lanka, Dr. Kevin Morrill and Dr. Peter Herman.



An operatory in the Pediatric Dental Suite in honor of Dr. Tom Lanka at Ellis Hospital.



Dr. Lanka is presented with a Presidential Citation from NYSSOMS by Dr. Smail.

## Ellis Medicine Dental Residency Graduation

On Thursday evening, June 18, 2015 the Ellis Medicine General Dental Residency Program held its graduation ceremony at the Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady, New York. The four graduates underwent rigorous training in all phases of Dentistry during the previous year under the purview of the attending general dentists and specialists from the region.

Graduating were: Dr. Megan Curran who will remain at the Ellis Dental Health Center as a Staff Dentist, Dr. Phong Chung who will join Chauvin Family Dentistry in Clifton Park and practice with his father, Dr. Don Chung, in Albany, Dr. Jaclyn Papa who will also join Chauvin Family Dentistry in Clifton Park and will also be practicing with her father, Dr. David Papa, in Colonie, and Dr. Neill Mears who will be practicing in a Community Dental Health Center in Washington State.

Also that evening, the four Residents gave their Award for Teacher of the Year to Dr. Thomas Lanka of Schenectady. Dr. Lanka has had a long and distinguished career as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in the Schenectady area. He currently oversees the Ellis Residency program and devotes an exemplary amount of time and expertise to the program. We congratulate him on this honor.



Dr. Neill Mears, Dr. Diana Sandu (Director of the Residency Program), Dr. Megan Curran, Dr. Jaclyn Papa, Dr. Phon Chung, Dr. Thomas Lanka (Chair of the Dental Department) and Dr. Donald DeLuke (Teaching Attending).

## PAP May Save Your License

Are you or a colleague dependent on drugs or alcohol? If the answer is yes, perhaps it is time to seek help for you or your colleague. The NYSDA has a committee to help impaired dentists and hopefully prevent the loss of his or her professional license. Our 13 districts each have a representative on the Chemical Dependency Committee (CDC) which is ready to assist any dentist affected by alcohol or drug abuse. The CDC has been in existence 33 years and will help a dentist enroll in the NYS Education Department's Professional Assistance Program (PAP). The PAP was established in 1982 as a non-punitive, confidential alternative for professionals with addiction and substance abuse problems.

Drug addiction is a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by the compulsive seeking and usage of alcohol or drugs. A conservative estimate suggests that 12-19% of dentists display chemical dependency, which is similar to that found in the general population. Dentists who become aware of and are sure of a colleague's chemical dependency, have a professional and ethical responsibility to intervene in a constructive manner. Intervention may involve:

- 1) Discussing the issue with the addicted dentist.
- 2) Offering help if and when possible.
- 3) Reporting the dentist to PAP, or your district representative on the Chemical Dependency Committee.

Remember, the PAP assists professionals who have substance abuse disorders, but who have not harmed patients in any way. Many of the referrals to PAP are from The Office of Professional Discipline who do not want to take a dentist's license away. Also, the PAP's mission is to protect the public and support the professional in recovery, which is voluntary and confidential.

Alcohol and drug abuse may develop during dental school, as some students look for ways to cope with stress. Dentists face an additional obstacle to recovery because they usually own their practice, so co-workers are reluctant to confront or report them to authorities.

The Professional Assistance Program interacts with approximately 25 dentists per year. The drugs of choice are typically alcohol, opiates and nitrous oxide. These dental well-being programs provide monitoring of treatment, drug-screening, and documentation of the recovering dental practitioner.

Once a person with an addiction accepts the presence of this disease and expresses a desire to be helped, then treatment can begin!! For the first step to recovery call 1-800-255-2100 or 518-474-3817, ext. 480 or email [pap@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:pap@mail.nysed.gov).

- Jack McGill, Fourth District CDC representative

## New Life Members 2016

Dr. Mohan Boolchandani  
Dr. Jules Comeau  
Dr. John Fox  
Dr. Joshua Herzlinger  
Dr. Stanley Lis  
Dr. Christian Mathiesen  
Dr. Mark Moreau  
Dr. David Nardini  
Dr. Michael Perrino  
Dr. Kenneth Schwartz

## Dr. Bauman Honored by Fauchard Academy

Dr. Mark Bauman received the Pierre Fauchard Academy Distinguished Service Award on June 13, 2015. He was recognized in particular for co-chairing, with Brian Kennedy, the first New York Dental Mission of Mercy. In addition to his long history of contributions to organized dentistry, Dr. Bauman is currently a delegate to the NYSDA and ADA Houses, and is a member of the NYSDA Council on Nominations, and secretary of the Empire Dental Political Action Committee Board of Directors. (Article summarized from NYSDA News October 2015)



PFA Trustee Lynne Halik, Dr. Bauman, Vice Chair Edward Feinberg, and Chair Amarillis Jacobo.

## Women Dentists Meeting

The annual Fourth District Women Dentists Meeting was held on October 1st, 2015 at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club in Saratoga Springs. The topic, "Lyme Disease: What You Should Know," was presented by Holly Ahern, Associate Professor of Microbiology at SUNY ACC. Ms. Ahern spoke from the perspective of a professor and a parent of a child with Lyme Disease about what is currently known and still unknown about Lyme Disease. She gave an overview of the various tick-borne infections that occur in this area, and questioned how they are currently being identified and treated. More information can be found on the Lyme Action Network website at [www.lymeactionnetwork.org](http://www.lymeactionnetwork.org).

Sponsors included The Lucy Hobbs Project, TD Bank and the 4th District Dental Society. Julie Radzynski from Benco Dental spoke about the Lucy Hobbs Project, named after the first woman dental school graduate. The annual celebration of the Lucy Hobbs Project will be held in Dallas, Texas June 2-3, 2016.



Dr. Korkosz, Holly Ahern, Dr. Baim and Dr. Hwang



Jen White, Chris Chadwick and Francine Buser from TD Bank and Dr. Hwang



(l to r, top to bottom) Dr. DeOleo, Dr. Primono, Dr. Papa, Dr. Ene, Dr. Sandu and Dr. McMahon



Dr. McDermott, Julie Radzynski and Stephanie Starer from Benco Dental, and Lynn Martin



Dr. Baim and Dr. Cloke



Dr. Marx and Dr. Ahmed

## 4th District Golf Tournament

The 4th District's annual fall golf tournament was held on September 11, 2015 at the Highland Park Country Club in Queensbury. It was a very successful event with two CE courses, a dental materials course by Jon Fundingsland, and an OSHA course by Mike Juliano. There were 52 golfers this year.

### GOLF PRIZE WINNERS:

Longest Drive #10 – Dr. Jeff Kisiel  
Straightest Drive # 12 – Dr. Michael Gelfman  
Closest To Pin # 3 – Dr. John Guarracino – 19' 8"  
Closest To Pin # 6 – Dr. Steve Messing – 4' 11"  
Closest To Pin # 11 – Dr. Gilbert Smith – 16' 3"  
Closest To Pin # 15 – Dr. Fred Wetzel – 3' 10"

### GOLF TEAM WINNERS – FIRST PLACE

Dr. Mitchell Potvin -63      Dr. Jeff Kisiel  
Dr. Joseph Potvin              Dr. Tom Eigo

## June 2015 Board Meeting Highlights

- Dr. Farren discussed the discontinuation of the **oral cancer screening event** at the Saratoga Racetrack venue and explored other venues for a 2016 event to be held possibly in conjunction with the Oral Cancer Foundation. The Executive Director will investigate the costs of liability insurance for a potential walk/run event.
- Dr. Korkosz (NYSDA Council on Dental Benefits ) spoke at length about the **Medicare Opt In/Out issue**. The deadline to participate has been moved to **June 1, 2016**. The use of an **8550 form** will allow dentists to Opt In/Out without having to repeat the process every two years. On the topic of insurance, Dr. H. John Schutze spoke about **virtual credit cards** and their potentially high charges. Dentists have the right to refuse using them.
- Dr. McGill (NYSDA Chemical Dependency Committee ) reported on the **increased opiate use** of the general public. A nasal spray is now available to purportedly counter the effects of opiate usage. The next district newsletter should include information on the Professional Assistance Program (PAP), for member awareness. There are resources available for dentists who need rehabilitation.
- Dr. Baim (NYSDA Council on Dental Health Planning & Hospital Dentistry ) attended the two-day NYSDA Stakeholders Summit, May 2015. A series of presenters discussed a wide spectrum of treatment issues regarding patients with **Alzheimer's**, the **developmentally disabled**, the **impoverished** and others. A **computer program** is in development to assess patient health risk and the ideal frequency of treatment.

### New Members

Dr. Mark Franklin  
SUNY - Buffalo  
Queensbury Family Dentistry

Dr. Steven Tychostup  
SUNY- Buffalo  
Spa Dental, Ballston Spa and Dr. Joseph Tychostup,  
Gloversville

Dr. Devin Harrison  
SUNY - Stony Brook  
Dr. Wayne Harrison, Saratoga Springs

Dr. Rita Nguyen  
SUNY - Stony Brook  
Alice Hyde Health Center, Malone

Dr. Christine Sankowski  
University of Pennsylvania  
Smile Lodge, Clifton Park

Dr. Marlon Salgado  
University of Columbia  
Saratoga Community Health Center, Saratoga  
Springs

Dr. Saira Ahmed  
Virginia Commonwealth University

### Dr. Kirk Gleason in Shenendehowa Sports Hall of Fame

On October 15th, Dr. G. Kirk Gleason of Clifton Park, was inducted into the Shenendehowa Sports Hall of Fame for his "Lifetime Contribution" to the athletic programs of the school district. Dr. Gleason has been actively involved as a volunteer for 40 years with many aspects of the athletic program and the Clifton Park community. He coached both the boys and girls JV Tennis Teams for 16 years, announced the football games for 11 years, and was involved with the Alpine Ski Team, Adult Basketball League, and Soccer Program. (Photo: Mrs. Dale Gleason and Dr. Kirk Gleason)



## Dr. Wetzel Profile

### Current Residence:

Schenectady, New York

### Dental School Attended:

NYU College of Dentistry

### Year of Dental Degree:

1985

### Postgraduate education:

GPR. Saint Claire's Hospital

### ADA Membership:

34 years

### Offices Held in Organized Dentistry:

- Delegate, ADA House of Delegates, 12 years
- Alternate Delegate, ADA House of Delegates, 3 years
- Member, ADA Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs
- Trustee, NYSDA Board of Trustees
- Chair, NYSDA Audit Committee
- Governor, NYSDA Board of Governors
- President, President-Elect, Vice President and Secretary of the Fourth District Dental Society
- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer of the Schenectady County Dental Society

### Professional Memberships:

- American College of Dentists
- Pierre Fauchard Academy

## 4th District's Fred Wetzel Running for ADA Second Vice President

Dr. Fred Wetzel, a long-standing member and past president of the Fourth District Dental Society, is running for ADA Second Vice President. The Second Vice President is a voting member of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is the managing body of the Association, vested with the power to conduct all business of the Association.



My passion has always been service, whether it be to my patients, my profession, or our association. From the very beginning of my career, I believed it was better to participate as a volunteer, rather than simply benefit from the efforts of others. Lucky for me, several local dentists helped me to realize the strength and importance of organized dentistry by encouraging me to attend monthly society meetings and mentoring my development. In so doing, they also nurtured my ability to lead. This journey has taught me how to investigate the often myriad facets of an issue and to facilitate an appropriate resolution – all

as a team player.

Three critical issues face organized dentistry today: decreasing membership market share, skyrocketing student debt and a changing practice model. To increase our membership, we need to make the ADA relevant. The tripartite must be the primary source of information and guidance for all dentists.

Our purpose is to serve our patients. This does not mean we do not think of ourselves, but that, above all, we do what is right ethically and morally. I am proud that many of our members practice on a fee-for-service basis. I think we have kept dentistry somewhat insulated from the horrors of the medical model. We need the independence to give our patients the best treatment that they need. This can exist, even in corporate dentistry. Let the providers' clinical judgment determine a patient's appropriate care. Serving patients appropriately strengthens public opinion and still allows us to utilize all that technology provides.

First and foremost, we are dentists. This is our credo and what membership in the ADA must stand for. Yes, we need to make sound business decisions and that education is a value add that membership must provide to stay relevant. I will be a strong voice for you at the Board table as I offer my common sense approach to problems based on my vast experience. I look forward to being your next ADA 2nd Vice President.

Fred Wetzel DDS

**WETZEL**  
**WP 2015**



**Fourth District  
Dental Society**

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