

# NEWSLETTER



2023 Vol. 13, No. 2

## Letter from the President



Happy summer to all Fourth District Dental Society members. Although it seems a distant memory, I want to thank all of those that attended and volunteered at the Saratoga Dental Congress and at the House of Delegates Meeting this past Spring. Thanks to dedicated planning efforts by many members of the Fourth District, both events were well received and a success.

Prior to the Memorial Day weekend 2024, we will once again host the Saratoga Dental Congress at the Saratoga City Center, returning to a day and a half format. We think this may better suit the members and sponsors. With dates at the City Center becoming increasingly limited, the Board is investigating other

venues for SDC 2025. If any members have ideas for a new location, please reach out to Lisa.

A current dental concern on both the local and state level is the legislative attempt to start a new profession of Dental Therapists. Unfortunately, the closure of facilities such as Ellis Hospital has put a further strain on the governmental programs. Some politicians view Dental Therapists as the solution but I, as well as many others, disagree, and do not believe this is in the best interest of the public. NYSDA is working on protecting the interest of patients and dentists alike. There are better solutions that are in place including loan forgiveness for dentists working in underserved areas as well as fully utilizing facilities that are in existence in our local counties.

Another concern for numerous dentists is how the evolution of Artificial Intelligence is affecting dentistry and dental insurance companies. As technology moves forward, a united dental society is necessary to protect the profession's interests and shape the

future. Conversations about up and coming issues such as these are happening in committee meetings at a state level.

We have also fielded questions from numerous dentists about the ability of the dental society to purchase group healthcare policies for practices, staff and families. Unfortunately, it is my understanding that it is currently not possible in New York State. We understand the need is great, and we will continue to try to work with the Governor's office and legislature to make this a possibility. It is an uphill road dealing with the powerful insurance companies.

Membership matters. EDPAC matters. I hear loud and clear your concerns regarding the relevance of the Dental Society to today's dentists. We are fighting for you and the safety of the public. Please stay involved.

Christina Coccozzo- Moore



# Fourth District Dental Society of New York

## NEWSLETTER

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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.

## Upcoming Events:

### CE #4 & Fall Business Meeting — Sept 22, 2023

8 AM: 4th District Member Business Meeting. Sign up for the [virtual member meeting](#).

8:30 AM: “Hiring For Keeps: Finding People That Fit” a webinar by Laura Nelson to follow our annual 4th District Fall Business Meeting. 3 CEs. Sign up for [CE registration](#).

### New Dentist Mixer — Thurs September 21, 2023

Joint 3rd and 4th District New Members on September 21st at 6pm at Singlecut Taproom in Clifton Park. New Dentists are those 10 years or less since graduation. [RSVP](#) here.

### NYSDA Dental Demonstration Project at HVCC — Sat October 21, 2023

This event is in support of Whitney Young and Hometown Health’s enormous backlog of patients (due in part to the closing of Ellis and St. Peters residencies). **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**. Contact Lisa at the Fourth District for further information.

### Women’s Meeting — Thurs October 26, 2023

Topic: Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Location and time will be announced via email.

### ADA Conference — October 7-10, 2023

ADA national meeting SmileCon in Orlando, FL.

### November Board Meeting — November 1, 2023

If you are interested in attending, please contact Lisa at the 4th District office or Dr. Cocozzo. All members welcome.

### December Board Meeting — December 6, 2023

If you are interested in attending, please contact Lisa at the 4th District office or Dr. Cocozzo. All members welcome.

### CE Seminar Series — Fridays 2024

Planned for February 2, March 1, and April 12. Details to come via email.

### RAM Event — April 6-7, 2024

Remote Area Medical ([RAM](#)) is planning a free dental clinic in Hudson Falls next April. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**.

### SDC 2024 — May 23 & 24, 2024

Save the date for next year’s Saratoga Dental Congress. Speakers/Topics include: Dr. Daniel Pompa, Dr. Uche Odiatu, Legal Updates for the Dental Community.

## Saratoga Dental Congress

On May 11th and 12th the annual Saratoga Dental Congress was held at the Saratoga City Center. Speakers this year included Dr. Harold Crossley, Dr. Len Tau, Dr. Arnold Weiss, Dr. Rich Madow, and CPR with MedCourse. The raffle generated over \$1600 for Things Of My Very Own in Schenectady. Over thirty vendors were present to provide for our dental community.



Registration table: Drs. (LtoR) Drs. Schutze, Mathiesen, Milza, Mer-ryman, Kluth, Cocozzo, Arpei-McHugh.



Left: Drs. Cocozzo, Crossley and Milza. Above: Dr. Madow and attendees.

## Advocacy Day - Dr. Phong Chung

This year marked the return of NYSDA Advocacy Day to Albany, our first in-person event since 2019. This two-day event began on April 17th with an introduction to NYSDA's lobbyists, Brown and Weinraub PLLC, and a review of the legislative topics to be discussed the following day. Our highlighted areas of interest were targeted to issues in workforce shortage, insurance reform, and vaccination administration eligibility. Throughout the day's events, we had the opportunity to meet and talk with Assemblyman Josh Jensen, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, and Senator Andrew Gouardes.

The discussions on this day laid the groundwork for our efforts on the next. Regarding the current workforce shortage, a broad variety of solutions were suggested which included improvements towards student loan programs, dental hygiene and assistant training programs, and the licensure application process.

For insurance reform, NYSDA is seeking the establishment of a specific loss ratio for dental benefit plans and the requirement for plans to file a comprehensive loss ratio report annually. In addition, the prevention of dental plans from capping what a dentist can charge a patient for services or procedures that are not covered under an enrollee contract.

Finally, NYSDA would like to see new legislation that provides dentists the authority to administer vaccinations for human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and emergency medications related to a declared health emergency.

On the morning of April 18th, 47 NYSDA dentists and staff members from across the state convened at the Legislative Office Building in the heart of downtown Albany. Throughout the day, we each had appointments with a handful of state representatives to discuss issues that impact our profession. As the Fourth District's Representative on the Council on Governmental Affairs, I had the privilege to meet with Assemblyman Phil Steck, Senator Jim Tedisco, and Assemblywoman MaryBeth Walsh. These sit-downs with the legislators provide an excellent opportunity to voice the concerns of the profession and help guide our government on the oral health of the public.



Dr. Chung and Dr. Galati meeting with New York State Senator Tedisco.



Drs. Harrison, Chung and Galati on Advocacy Day.

## **NYSDA House of Delegates**

At this year's NYSDA House of Delegates meeting in Saratoga Springs, Dr. Jim Galati tossed the NYSDA President's baton to Dr. Anthony Cuomo (9th District) as we celebrated the culmination of Dr. Galati's busy and successful presidential year.

Some of the debates from the House floor were over supporting a "sugar tax", the naming of the "Women's Luncheon" at the national ADA meeting which is sponsored by NYSDA, dues increase for NYSDA, and 12-month payment options for dues. Over the course of the two-day meeting, there were caucus meetings, elections, award presentations, and voting on resolutions. Representing the 4th District were Delegates Dr. Christina Cocozzo, Dr. May Hwang, Dr. Laura Johnstone, Dr. John Milza and Dr. Fred Wetzel, along with alternate delegates Dr. Crystal Arpei-McHugh and Dr. Diana Sandu. Schenectady endodontist and long-standing 4th district member Adrienne Korkosz was sworn in for a 4-year term as NYSDA Trustee, taking over for Dr. Wayne Harrison.

It was an honor to be able to host dentists from around the state for a weekend of events, and show them what makes the Fourth District special.



Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Galati speaking to the House of Delegates; Dr. Sandu addressing the House; The 4th District delegation; Drs. Milza, Sandu, Arpei-McHugh, Johnstone, Galati, Cocozzo, Hwang and Harrison.

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## **NYS Dental Foundation Luncheon**

Fourth District dentist and NYS Dental Foundation Trustee, Dr. Loren Baim, planned a delightful brunch on June 3rd at the Saratoga Convention Center. It served as a platform to raise funds for the foundation's vital initiatives and provided an insightful lecture focused on innovative strategies to provide optimal care for special needs patients. Dr. Tana Fagan, a dentist from the Center for Disability Services, discussed "*Autism Awareness in Dentistry*" and the organization's Dental Services programming at Center Health Care. Attendees and supporters helped raise more than \$28,000 for oral health programs and initiatives in New York State.



**Dr. Tana Fagan from the Center for Disability Services.**



**Drs. Cocozzo, Hwang, Harrison, and Kluth.**



**Organizer of the event, Dr. Loren Baim.**



**Dr. Hwang with the table prize.**

## House of Delegates Weekend

The House of Delegates meeting is held in a different district of the NY State Dental Society each year. It has been thirteen years since our district last hosted this meeting. As the delegates from around the state gather, a number of events are held preceding the HOD meeting. Many of our members dedicated their time to planning and hosting these events. The Fourth District Dental Society extends its heartfelt appreciation to its dedicated members who orchestrated a truly memorable House of Delegates weekend, fostering camaraderie and professional growth within the dental community.

### Cocktail Reception

On Friday evening, a grand welcome cocktail hour was hosted by the Fourth District at the Saratoga Racing Museum. Attendees from across the state delved into Saratoga's rich history, all while being treated to the musical talents of our local member, Dr. Mark Roschinsky and his band, PartTime Rock. Dr. Aliah Joslin, the Fourth District New Dentist Chair, curated a special area exclusively for New Dentists at the event. This facilitated interactions among new professionals, enabling them to witness firsthand the benefits of organized dentistry and the potential for meaningful connections within the field.



Dr. Laura Heisinger and Thomas Passalacqua.



Dr. Tolulope Stone in the new dentist area.



Mary DiSanto-Rose, Ben Decker, Dr. Sarah Fox, Deanne Fox, Dr. John Fox, Dr. Kate Houtz, and Dan Houtz.



Dental students John Lapore (Buffalo), Jordan Sahawneh (Touro), Kristin Woo (Columbia), Adam Mucci (Columbia), Arakelian Vartkes (Touro).

### Golf Tournament

Among the highlights was the golf outing on June 1st at the picturesque Hiland Golf Course in Queensbury, orchestrated by Dr. Mark Roschinsky. With over 100 dentists and friends in attendance, the golf outing offered a perfect blend of camaraderie and friendly competition.

### Tennis Round Robin

Dr. May Hwang organized a friendly and fun tennis round robin at the Saratoga Golf & Polo Club.

### Game Night

Dr. Adrienne Korkosz furthered the sense of connection by hosting the inaugural Game Night. Designed to bridge dentists from different districts, the event provided an enjoyable space for networking and building new friendships.

### Dinner Gala

A highlight of the weekend was the gala held at the Hall of Springs on Saturday night, where President Dr. James Galati was honored for his outstanding leadership during his year-long tenure. His commitment to expanding the mentorship program and championing diversity within the membership has left an indelible mark on the dental community.





# SALUTE VETS WITH A SMILE

# New York

## WILL YOU PLEDGE TO PROVIDE DENTAL CARE FOR ONE VETERAN IN 2024?

Through major acts of courage and simple acts of kindness, Veterans have protected Americans' rights and defended our freedoms. Yet millions of U.S. Veterans are going without much-needed, essential oral health care.

The New York State Dental Foundation is organizing a crew of dentists across New York State who will pledge to provide free dental treatment to one or more United States Veterans in 2024.

### PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT TODAY

- Fill out the pledge form. Your name will be added to our internal directory of Dental Heroes.
- We will spread the news about New York's Salute Vets with a Smile program and connect Veterans in need with a Dental Hero in their area.
- Free toothbrushes and up to \$500 in funding for supplies will be provided to any components wishing to organize an additional Veterans event in their district.



"85%, or about 7.8 million veterans enrolled in the Veterans Affairs health care system, are ineligible for VA dental benefits... in order to qualify for dental services, Veterans must either have a dental issue that is service-connected or qualify based on narrow criteria."



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Please join us for our virtual member meeting on September 22, 2023 at 8 am. We will be discussing general operations items as well as voting on the following positions, which were approved by the nominations committee. We strongly encourage all members to attend. The CE registration for "Hiring For Keeps: Finding People That Fit" a webinar by Laura Nelson is now open for the 8:30 am course.

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Pres Elect  
Dr. Jennifer Kluth  
Vice Pres  
Dr. Edmund Wun  
Secretary  
Dr. Claire Keihl

ADA Alternate Delegate  
Dr. Jennifer Kluth

NYSDA Delegate  
Dr. Christina Cocozzo  
Dr. Fred Wetzel  
Dr. John Milza  
Dr. Crystal Arpei-McHugh

NYSDA Alternate Delegate  
Dr. Diana Sandu  
Dr. Rachel Hargraves

At Large Board Position  
Dr. Breault  
Dr. Jonathan Schutze

Alternate to the Board Position  
Dr. John McCambley

Newsletter Editor  
Dr. Crystal Arpei-McHugh

## HVCC Pin Ceremony & Dr. Mark Bauman Scholarship Award

Each year the 4th District provides the Dental Hygiene pins to HVCC's graduating class. In addition, since 2020 and the creation of the Dr. Mark Bauman Scholarship, we provide a scholarship award to a student chosen by the Hygiene School faculty who demonstrates attributes consistent with Dr. Mark Bauman's professional characteristics, namely: shows potential for leadership, is active in their community and supportive of their fellow students. This year's recipient was Jory Maloney, who is pictured with Dr. Wayne Harrison.



## Saratoga County Meeting

The Saratoga Branch "Meet the Specialists" Meeting, the first in-person branch meeting post COVID-19, had strong attendance at Panza's Saratoga. Dr. Cocozzo recalled her "Meet the Specialist" event as an early career dentist as a positive, informative and useful meeting, and wanted to host a Specialists Night as Fourth District President. The evening was a great mix of veteran and New Dentists for an evening of networking and an opportunity to re-establish member connections and welcome our newest members to the district.



Drs.  
Banches &  
Byrne.



Drs. Cocozzo,  
Gleason &  
Guilfoyle.

## New 8 Hour CE Requirement for DEA Renewal

On December 29, 2022, the Federal Government passed the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2023 also known as the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act, or MATE Act. This act requires all providers with a DEA to obtain eight hours of continuing education on controlled substances. This is a one-time requirement, and not a recurring requirement for each DEA renewal. To help dentists comply with the new requirements, there is an [ADA FAQ](#) addressing common questions the Association has heard from members

This new 8-hour requirement is in addition to the Mandatory New York State 3-hour Opioid requirement, which must be repeated every 3 years. In New York licensed providers with a DEA registration became required to take an approved course by July 1, 2020 and once every three years thereafter pursuant to Public Health Law §3309-a(3).

The New York State Dental Foundation (NYSDF) has an updated course which can be applied towards the NY State and Federal requirements. The [CE course offered by the Foundation](#) can be found at [NYSDFoundation.org](https://www.nysdentalfoundation.org).

The ADA FAQ list a number of free-to-member 1-hr webinars which can also be used towards the new federal 8-hour requirement. They also caution that before taking new courses, note that past trainings from recognized groups can be used to satisfy requirement.

**NEW YORK AND  
FEDERAL DEA  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
CONTROLLED & ILLICIT  
SUBSTANCES**

SATISFIES NEW FEDERAL MANDATE &  
NYS EVERY 3 YEARS MANDATE  
3 LECTURE CREDITS

## State Law for Opioid Prescription

Effective June 27, 2022, doctors in outpatient settings prescribing an opioid for pain management may also be required to simultaneously prescribe an opioid antagonist (such as Narcan/Naloxone) to the patient. This new law applies to the first opioid prescription to a patient each year when any one of the following conditions are known to exist: (a) a history of substance use disorder; or (b) high dose or cumulative prescriptions that result in ninety morphine milligram equivalents or higher per day; or (c) concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepine or nonbenzodiazepine sedative hypnotics.



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## **New Member**

**Dr. Erin Thompson**  
Hudson Headwaters Warrensburg  
Stony Brook Univ. 2020

## **Retired Member**

**Dr. Thomas W. Every**

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