

NEWSLETTER



2023 Vol. 13, No. 3

Letter from the President



Seasons Greetings to all Fourth District members,

Thank you all for your continued support of the Fourth District Dental Society, NYSDA and ADA. With membership renewal around the corner, I want to take this opportunity to remind you that your dues money is well spent. We will be stronger individually as we continue to be a unified profession. I am pleased the California Dental Society has, for the time being, renewed their commitment to membership in the ADA and allowed us to stand together nationally.

This fall our district was contacted by NY Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, who was proposing

a bill promoting Dental Therapists as a solution to the current access-to-care issue. Members of our 4th District leadership and members of the NYSDA leadership met with Assemblywoman Woerner to explain the situation from the perspective of dentists. Our emphasis was to highlight 3 impactful, more immediate solutions: tackle Medicaid reimbursement rates to increase provider participation, tackle licensing/credentialing delays for new graduates entering the workforce, and incentivize newer Dentists' engagement in underserved, rural areas with loan forgiveness programs. Creating mid-level providers does not address any of the current patient issues. I am thankful that Dr. Adrienne Korkosz (NYSDA Trustee), Dr. Michael Breault (EDPAC Co-Chair), Dr. Jim Galati (past NYSDA President), Dr. Crystal Apei-McHugh (Newsletter Editor), Dr. Prabha Krishnan (NYSDA President Elect), Briana McNamee (NYSDA Director of Governmental Affairs) and Lisa Hicks (4th District Executive Director) were given the opportunity to

speak on the topic of irreversible dental procedures that we all know are far from simple. The topic of closures of the Ellis and St. Peter's residency programs and the resultant impact on access-to-care was also discussed. My hope is that the legislature will consider our warning of the disadvantages to the public by the creation of a new dental occupation in New York State. There is no simple solution but to include dentists in problem solving and troubleshooting is in the best interest of all involved.

As Dentists we must continue to have a voice in Healthcare. I am very grateful to EDPAC (the Empire Dental Political Action Committee) and especially to our representative, Dr Kirk Gleason in making our voice heard. At board meetings this year, I saw many new faces. I was struck by how much of their time each member gives to continue to keep our profession relevant to both our local dentists, as well as the public. It is our combined efforts that strengthen this advocacy. Please reach out to Lisa Hicks or myself if any (continued on pg 3)

Fourth District Dental Society of New York

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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 #1 — Feb 2, 2024

Local Orthodontic Panel Webinar “Straight from the Source” Dr. Alexander, Dr. Cooney, Dr. Griswold, Dr. Lozman and Dr. Tyner.

CE #2 — March 1, 2024

“Materials & Tech that Expedite Excellence” presented by Joshua Austin, DDS, MAGD at the Desmond Hotel, Albany

CE #3 — April 12, 2024

“Offensive Dentistry” and “Nobody Caries” presented by Brian Novy, DDS at the Hilton Garden Inn, Clifton Park

SDC — May 23 & 24, 2024 (Th all day, Fri 8am-1pm)

At Saratoga City Center. Dr. Daniel Pompa, Dr. Uchi Odia-tu, Dr. Robert Lipscomb, Fran Ciardullo Esq & Margaret Surowka Esq, and CPR with MedCourse.

Golf and CE — Sept 20, 2024

CE will be Infection Control at Hiland Golf Course, Queens-bury.

CE #4 — October 4, 2024

Half-day AM webinar “Artificial Intelligence Impacts Den-tistry”

Stick It To Caner — March 29 & 30, 2024

Oral cancer screenings at the ADK Thunder game. Volun-teers needed.

Remote Area Medical — April 6-7, 2024

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

ADK Branch Meeting

ADK branch President Dr. Morris Feinberg could not let the year end without rallying the members for their first meeting post Covid. He organized a great dinner meeting with a presentation from Nick Zaffarese, District Sales Manager from Vatech, on CBCT for North Country members. Dr. Feinberg went old school and reached out personally to extend the dinner invitation ~ it was a great night to see familiar faces and get back to in-person events.



Woman Dentists Meeting

The Women Dentists Meeting was held on October 26th, 2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Clifton Park. Our members came together to enjoy a night of networking and camaraderie



Drs. Hargraves, Korkosz, Hwang, Kluth, Johnstone, Krishnan and Cocozo.



Drs. Markose, Vu, Barzani and Khattak.

thanks to the hard work of organizer Dr. May Hwang. NYSDA President-Elect Dr. Prabha Krishnan spoke on getting involved in leadership, and 4th District oral surgeon Dr. Golaleh Barzani presented an informative lecture on sleep apnea.

Thank you to our sponsors for the evening Brookbeam Dental, Crane Dental Lab, MLMIC, TD Bank and Professional Dental Services.



Drs. Joslin, Stone, Markose Davidyuk.



Drs. Fryer and McCullough.

New Dentist Mixer

New dentists (10 years or less since graduation) from the Third and Fourth Districts gathered for a mixer at SingleCut North in Clifton Park. Fourth District New Dentist Chair, Dr. Aliah Joslin, hosted a fun night of food trucks, beverages and 'get to know you' contests. General dentists and specialists were able to meet or reconnect and foster the relationships that make working in the Fourth District so special.

Thank you to our sponsors for the night TD Bank, Hudson Transitions Partners, Crane Dental Lab and MLMIC. The new dentists are the future of our district and it is great to see them creating a community.



Letter from the President (Continued from front page)

member would like to attend a Board meeting. We encourage and welcome it.

In the spirit of giving back at a local level, numerous other 4th district members have volunteered to treat local veterans by being matched through the NYS Dental Foundation. Please consider reaching out to [Stacy McIlduff](#) at the NYS Dental Foundation (518-689-2772) to impact the dental health of a veteran who has put their life on the line to defend our country.

As the new year approaches, our society reflects on resolutions for the upcoming year. At the most recent board meeting, [Dr. John McCambley](#) requested that we spread awareness that the dental society is here to assist any dentists struggling with mental health issues or addictions. For any of you having a particularly difficult time, I urge you to speak with Dr McCambley, who has recently retired from his Schenectady practice and serves as our representative for the Committee on Substance Abuse and Wellness. I met John when he was wrapping up his 10-plus-year continuing education chair position for the 4th district. I was struck by his patience and compassion. Please contact Dr. McCambley if you are in need of assistance and/or need to put your dental license on hold during treatment. You are not alone. You are not the first to experience an addiction/mental health crisis and the first step is asking for help. We are here for you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President in 2023. Best of luck to our next President, John Milza, DDS and the 2024 Fourth District Dental Board. I wish you, your families and dental teams a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2024.

Sincerely,
Christina Cocozo- Moore, DDS



Dr. Thomas R. Curran Fluoridation Award

The NYS Oral Health Coalition has honored Dr. Wayne Harrison with the prestigious Dr. Thomas R. Curran Fluoridation Award for his work on local water fluoridation in Fulton County, and now continued efforts in Albany County.

A recent article in the Times Union discussed the revived campaign to fluoridate Albany County water supply. The article states that Albany is the largest municipality in upstate New York without fluoridation; nearly three-quarters of New Yorkers drink water that has fluo-

ride added. There is an interactive map in the article with fluoridation rates for each county in the state. Previous efforts to establish community fluoridation have been unsuccessful, but County Health Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Whalen and Albany Councilman Tom Hoey are leading the latest efforts. They are working with a coalition of experts, policy makers, community groups, and dentists such as Dr. Harrison. We thank Dr. Harrison for all his efforts to improve the public health of the Capital Region.

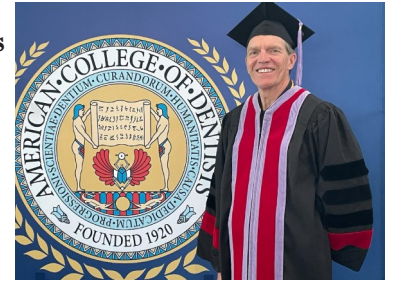
Veteran's Day Event

Dr. Katie Tonkin of Advanced Dentistry of Clifton Park hosted a Veteran's Day event, which has become an annual event. They provided thousands of dollars of free dentistry to 30 very deserving veterans in our area.



ACD Fellowship

Dr. Gary DiSanto-Rose of Johnstown, NY was awarded a Fellowship in the American College of Dentists on October 5, 2023, during its Annual Meeting and Convocation in Orlando, FL. Congratulations Dr. DiSanto-Rose.



New ADA Forsyth Institute (summarized from ADA.org)

SOMERVILLE, Mass., Oct. 26, 2023 – The American Dental Association (ADA) and the Forsyth Institute today announced the formation of the ADA Forsyth Institute, which brings together unparalleled talent, visionary research opportunities and dynamic innovation prospects, dedicated to advancing oral health through scientific innovation and research.

“The new ADA Forsyth Institute will continue to advance oral and overall health through ground-breaking research and innovation,” said Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey. “The Forsyth Institute has been, and will continue to be, an integral part of the Massachusetts bio-innovation and research community. This new venture will build on more than a century of excellent work right here in Massachusetts, including the discovery of how fluoride prevents cavities.”

The ADA Forsyth Institute will be at the forefront of research while continuing the important work ADASRI (ADA Science & Research Institute) led to date, such as the first complete map of every cell in the oral cavity, the development of Food and Drug Administration-recognized standards for nearly every tool of dentistry, the creation of evidence-based guidance to inform treatment of patients and the ADA Seal of Acceptance program, maintaining the rigorous product evaluation criteria trusted by dental professionals and consumers alike. More than 400 products have earned the Seal after being evaluated for safety and effectiveness.

“This is an incredible opportunity to advance the aligned missions of the ADA and Forsyth,” said Dr. Linda Edgar, President of the ADA. “The Forsyth Institute has a long and storied history of scientific leadership and a dedication to making people healthier. Looking toward the future, we’re excited to see the many ways the ADA Forsyth Institute will carry on that legacy.”

Capital Region Community Dental Event at HVCC

On Saturday October 21st, 2023 a dental community outreach program was held with the coordination of NYSDA, NYS Dental Foundation, Hudson Valley Community College and Kare Mobile. The event took place at the HVCC Dental Hygiene School in Troy, which could easily accommodate the 108 patients seen that day. Over 60 dental hygiene students, along with their attending hygienists and dentists, screened patients and provided dental education. The students gained valuable experience seeing patients with more emergent needs than they ordinarily are exposed to in the hygiene clinic. Volunteer dentists made use of Kare Dental vans to provide 84 extractions, free of charge to patients who needed immediate care. The event was designed to help relieve pressure on Whitney Young and Hometown Health following the recent closure of area dental clinics. A coordinator was available to connect community members with a new dental home.



HVCC Dental Hygiene faculty volunteers.



Dr. Lauren Heisinger and Dr. Lydia Hunt.



Dr. Don DeLuke, Dr. Jennifer Kluth, Dr. Jon Schutze.



Dental hygiene student volunteers at morning huddle.



Dr. Jennifer Kluth, Stacy McIlduff NYSDF Executive Director, Tammy Conway RDH, HVCC Dental Hygiene Chairperson, and Dr. Maria Maranga.

Did You Know?

Your private practice patients can have x-rays taken at the **Dental Hygiene Clinic at HVCC** in Troy. Prescriptions for x-rays should be sent to dhyclinic@hvcc.edu and should include 1) patient name and date of birth, 2) patient phone number 3) desired x-rays (bitewings, full mouth series, panoramic or panoramic + bitewings) 4) prescribing dentist name, office address, phone number. The email should be sent from the prescribing dentist, and NOT a member of their staff. The hygiene clinic will call the patient and make an appointment for the x-rays. A student will then call the patient to get a brief health history over the phone. Once the patient is in the clinic for their appointment, they will receive a blood pressure screening and diagnosis of their x-rays. The x-rays will be emailed to your office. As it is a learning institution, it may take more time than in a private office but the fees are reflective of this. BTW \$5; FMX \$15; PAN \$10; PAN + BTW \$15.

Third letter from the ADA Trustee to the NYSDA Components – September 2023 Trustee's Corner

As we reach the fall season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for letting me serve as your Trustee to the Second District. It has been a challenging and rewarding experience and I look forward to representing you over the next three years. Since my last correspondence, there has been a lot happening at the American Dental Association and I will try to give you as much information as possible. As many of you know, the California Dental Association's Board of Directors unanimously passed a proposal this past spring to put a resolution before the California House of Delegates that would allow their constituent/component members the option of joining the ADA, beginning in January 2025. After an intense and thoughtful debate through the summer, the CDA Board decided to recalibrate and not bring a resolution forward to the California House of Delegates this November.

It is critically important to understand the ADA Board of Trustees does not want to go down this road. We believe the Tripartite and the Power of Three is paramount to our accomplishments. The Tripartite has been in existence for 110 years and has been intimately associated with our success as an organization and a profession. Whether it is advocacy, science, continuing education or helping members succeed throughout their career journeys, the ADA is stronger when we are together. The ADA looks forward to increasing and promoting the value of membership to all dentists. We feel strongly it will be a better ADA in the near and distant future with the Power of three including the entire country.

Many members do not realize how much the ADA can help as you progress through your career. We are there for evaluating employment agreements. We also have debt management tools and can offer financial planning. A good number of us have taken advantage of the group insurance programs, including the life insurance and disability plans. The ADA can assist with physical and mental wellness, and we have a yearly meeting devoted to this topic. The ADAPT (American Dental Association Practice Transitions) program connects a large network of member dentists who are buying or selling practices, hiring associates or in the process of looking for new employment. All these wonderful services are available at your fingertips by contacting the American Dental Association or going onto ADA.org. We are also open to new suggestions from members if you feel it will help individual dentists, our association, and/or our profession. You can contact me anytime you would like. My information is at the end of this letter.

At my last correspondence with you, I discussed the dilemma of decreasing membership. The ADA is strongly looking at new solutions to counter this long-term trend. As we speak, a group is working on a new membership model. A tiered model framework is being developed over the next few months which will be shared with the state and local organizations soon after. The tiered membership model is scheduled to be completed by March of 2024. The Strategic Forecasting Committee and an Action group will be assisting with the intricate details of the plan. Our new information technology platform, Salesforce/Fonteva, will be launched in early July of 2024. This will allow us to use a new billing system in a much easier manner than by using our current system, Aptify. The billing process for the 2025 dues will be completed in October 2024 using the new platform and utilized by the end of the year.

The ADA Board of Trustees met in Chicago from July 30th until August 1st. I can report to you that your ADA is financially strong, even with the decrease in membership. Our non-dues revenue has helped keep us monetarily healthy. Our recent external audit report for 2022 received an unqualified opinion by KPMG. The ADA Board of Trustees will begin a new budgeting process to a 12-month, rolling mission-based budget, starting in November. It is expected that the transition to a mission-based budget will assist in identifying the need for cessation of certain programs due to those programs' ineffectiveness to generate metrics that support positive movement in supporting the ADA's strategic forecast. The ADA Board will be assisted along the way by Action groups from the Strategic Forecasting Committee, which is a committee of the ADA House of Delegates. This way the House has input throughout the entire year, instead of just during the annual meeting.

On March 24th this year, ADA President George Shepley was able to attend the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, at the White House in Washington, DC. Dr. Shepley created the ADA Task Force on Sugar, Nutrition and Diet, (continued next page)

Member Highlight - Public Health Dentists

Please meet three member dentists who are working in the public health sector to provide and facilitate care for those with a great need in the Third and Fourth Districts.

Katie Rothas, DDS, MPH has been serving as the Dental Director at Whitney M. Young Health since 2021, an FQHC with dental locations in Albany and Troy, NY. During her tenure the department has focused on rebuilding the team to meet the ever-growing demand for care and has tried to utilize grant opportunities to address workforce challenges, including the development of an AEGD residency program for the 2025-2026 cycle using a HRSA Teaching Health Center Grant.



Dr. Erin Thompson, Dr. Rory Ogden and Dr. Katie Rothas.

Erin Thompson, D.D.S. recently accepted the Dental Director position at Hudson Headwaters, a three dentist Community Health Center dental department in Warrensburg. In this role she is looking forward to helping grow the dental department, by increasing the number of clinical sites within the Hudson Headwaters Health Network. This will increase access to dental care for under-resourced patients north of Schenectady/Albany. Dr. Thompson feels fortunate to have Katie and Rory, as well as her father, Dr. William Down (former dental director of Hometown Health for 23 years) to network with and learn from as she enters this new role.

Dr. Rory Ogden, DDS has been working at Hometown Health Centers since her residency year in 2013 and has been the chief dental officer since 2018. She is also the site resident director of the AEGD through NYU Langone. She advocated for federal and county government funding to expand services with a new 30 operatory clinic to help serve a community in dire need of dental services.

ADA Trustee Letter (Continued from previous page)

which has had a very productive year. They have met virtually several times, reviewing existing ADA policy on the three subjects. They also agreed to new recommendations concerning healthy foods, avoiding ultra-processed foods and promoting access to potable water. Future ideas include educating dental students, prevention and patient education, more interprofessional education and an increase in dental research. The task force was approved for another year to have the Council on Scientific Affairs explore the feasibility of developing science-based guidelines to document the impact of added sugar consumption on oral health outcomes and to develop an action plan to educate the public on foods with added sugar consumption as it relates to oral and systemic health.

I would like to thank every one of you for your membership. As I mentioned, I have been honored to serve as the ADA Trustee for the Second District. My second year begins at the conclusion of the ADA annual meeting in Orlando in October. I wish all of you and your families the best in the coming months and I will be in touch with you with another Trustee's Corner in the beginning of 2024. If you need to contact me, my email addresses are drrendowd@gmail.com and dowdb@ada.org. My cell number is 716-510-3217.

Sincerely, Brendan

Brendan Dowd, DDS
ADA Trustee, Second District





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New Members		Retired Life Members
<p>Dr. Richard Ariza Mayfield Univ MD 2018</p> <p>Dr. Zachary Hansen Smile Lodge Roseman Univ 2019</p> <p>Dr. Courtney Miyamoto Queensbury Family Dental Univ of MD 2018</p> <p>David Monin 1st Advantage Halfmoon Midwestern Univ. 2020</p> <p>Dr. Rory Ogden Schenectady Family Health Services, NY Creighton Univ 2013</p>	<p>Dr. Emmanuel Suissa North Country Pediatric Dentistry Univ of Montreal 2019</p> <p>Dr. Larisa Takhalova Scotia Orthodontics NYU 2010</p> <p>Dr. Daniel Zimmerman Pray Dental, Ballston Spa Boston Univ. 2020</p> <p>Dr. Peter S. Felpo Transfer Member Clifton Park Family Dentis- try</p>	<p>Dr. David Kaplan</p> <p>Dr. Donald Davison</p>

