

# NEWSLETTER



2022 Vol. 12, No. 3

## Letter from the President



representatives at all levels have worked hard to meet the demands of an ever-evolving profession.

In my short time as President, I have witnessed remarkable efforts by our leadership at all levels. Through national lobbying efforts and relentless discussions with leadership in Washington, the proposed dental benefit for Medicare part B was successfully removed. As written, the bill was overwhelmingly rejected by organized dentistry and likely would have had a disastrous impact on us as providers and the seniors that we serve. I have also witnessed long debated efforts to increase the youth and diversity of our leadership come to fruition. This will undoubtedly help ensure that the voices of each of our members are heard which only stands to improve our profession as a whole. We continue to seek out ways to boost membership and membership value, and I am proud to say that at the 4th district we boast the highest percentage of membership of any component district in New York State. Our district remains strong and it has been my pleasure to serve as

your President. I wish each of you a very Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous 2023!

-Bob



Greetings from the 4<sup>th</sup> District. It has been a positive year for organized dentistry and for our own district. We have seen a resurgence in patient demand as the impact of the global pandemic continues to ease with each passing month. We hosted the first SDC in 3 years revitalizing a critical source of revenue for our district which in turn improves the resources available to serve our membership. Finally, at the 2022 House of Delegates Meeting our very own Jim Galati was installed as the 142<sup>nd</sup> President of the New York State Dental Society. Our officers and

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# Fourth District Dental Society of New York

## NEWSLETTER

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Fourth District Dental Society  
of the State of New York  
632 Plank Road, Suite 200  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
Phone: (518) 371-1114  
Fax: (518) 371-0018  
Email: [office@4thdds.org](mailto:office@4thdds.org)  
Website: [www.4thdds.org](http://www.4thdds.org)

American Dental Association  
800-621-8099

New York Dental Association  
800-255-2100

### CO-EDITORS

Dr. Rachel Hargraves  
Dr. Jennifer Kluth

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Lisa Hicks

### 2022 OFFICERS

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Dr. Christina Cocozzo,  
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Assistant Treasurer  
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Dr. Wayne Harrison

### NYSDA DELEGATES

Dr. Loren Baim  
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Dr. Frederick W. Wetzel  
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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.

**PLEASE NOTE: Fourth District Dental Society email is now [office@4thdds.org](mailto:office@4thdds.org)**

## Upcoming Events:

### 4th District Officer Installation — Jan 7, 2023

2023 Officer installation reception at Prime at Saratoga National.

### CE Course #1 — Feb 3, 2023

“Patients and their Dental Care: Behind the Scenes” including Difficult Patient Situations, Audit Investigation, Contracts and HR and Fraud Defenses by Fran Ciardullo Esq., Norm Bouchard, Margaret Surowka Esq., Graig Zappia Esq. at the Century House, Latham. 7 MCEs.

### CE Course #2 — March 3, 2023

“Predictable, Profitable Restorative & Aesthetic Procedures” by Dr. Marvin Fier DDS FASDA at the Hilton Garden Inn, Clifton Park. 7 MCEs.

### CE Course #3 — March 31, 2023

“Diagnosis of Peri-Implant Disease and Treatment Considerations” by Dr. Suheil Bourtos DDS MS at the Hilton Garden Inn, Clifton Park. 7 MCEs.

### SDC 2023 — May 11 & 12, 2023

Save the Date for the next SDC with speakers (subject to change) Dr. Harold Crossley, Dr. Len Tau, Dr. Richard Madow, and Dr. Arnold Weiss.

### NYSDA House of Delegates — June 1-3, 2023

With local dentist Jim Galati serving as NYSDA President this year, the NYSDA House of Delegates meeting will be held locally this year in Saratoga Springs. There will be several events over June 1-3 in which local dentists can participate, outlined on page 5. This is a chance for the 4th District to shine! Delegates from across NY State will be gathered in Saratoga for the weekend's events.

### Fall Business Meeting — September 22, 2023

“Hiring For Keeps: Finding People That Fit” a webinar by Laura Nelson to follow our annual 4th District Fall Business Meeting. 3 MCEs

### Stick It To Cancer — March 24 & 25, 2023

Call for Volunteers to provide oral cancer screenings and education to the fans at the Adirondack Thunder Hockey games, partnering with Glens Falls Hospital. Please see flyer on the back cover of this publication.

## New Dentist Meeting

Our annual New Dentist event was billed as a Member/Master Mixer that brought together our 'master/veteran' membership with our newer members to create an opportunity for mentorship connections. Held at The Barn at Powers Pub in September, the event was successful in bringing together our 4th district officers and members both established and new for an informal night of networking.



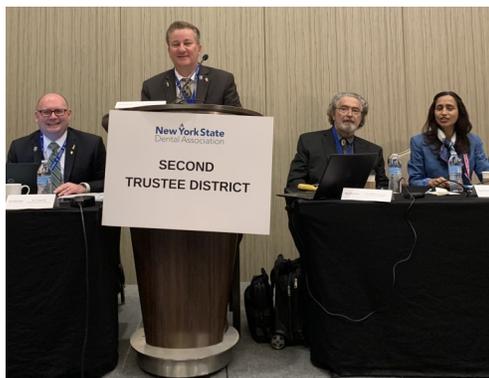
Drs. Berls, Wun, Barzani and Hargraves.



Drs. Lam, Bakar, Boliere and Singh.

## ADA House of Delegates

The annual ADA House of Delegates meeting was held in Houston this year and our Delegates and Alternates were knee deep in caucus and reference committee meetings working on issues to move the association and our district forward. Thank you to our Delegates Dr. Wayne Harrison and Dr. Loren Baim, and our Alternates Dr. Adrienne Korkosz and Dr. Fred Wetzel for your commitment to organized dentistry and the Fourth District.



Dr. Galati presenting to the group.



Drs. Korkosz representing the 4th District.



## Women's Meeting

Glens Falls dentist Dr. Jamie Cohn was our featured speaker at the annual Women's Meeting on October 20th to a great turnout. Nearly 40 members attended a very informative lecture on patients with cancer and specifics on their unique care, given by Dr. Cohn who completed a Fellowship in Dental Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering as part of her training. This annual event seems to grow larger each year and is open to all members. On a lighter note, there was also a presentation from local professional home consultant Sara Kelly.



Drs. Pels-Wetzel and Burkich.



Drs. Hwang and Cohn.

## Upper Hudson Holiday Gathering

Dr. Loren Baim hosted a Holiday Gathering at her home this December for the Upper Hudson branch of the 4th District. Many thanks to Dr. Baim for this festive opportunity to connect with members of our dental community. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.



## New Members

Dr. Alex Cormier-Lavoie  
Plattsburgh Dental  
Univ Montreal 2016

Dr. Shazia Khattak  
Dental Today Niskayuna  
Midwestern Univ 2016

Dr. Kristen Lehner  
Saratoga Springs Family  
Dentistry  
Univ Michigan 2021

Dr. Christopher Unger  
Sitwell Dental Clifton Park  
Boston Univ 2017

Dr. Duc Tuan Hoang  
Lake Front Dental  
Univ. Montreal 2011

## Retired Life Members

Dr. Michael Vuotto

## Retired Members

Dr. Michael DeLuke

## NY State CE Requirements

The NYSED will grant an adjustment to all licensees, regardless of registration renewal date, to utilize self-study for any coursework taken during the period from March 1, 2020 – January 31, 2023, provided that it is taken from a Department-approved provider and is in an acceptable subject area for the specific profession. Coursework taken outside that timeframe must meet the continuing education requirements in each individual profession's laws and regulations. [Dept of Ed.](#)

## Local Member Gives Back

One of our Fourth District members, Dr. Katie Tonkin gave back to the community in a big way this November. In honor of Veterans Day, Dr. Tonkin and her team provided over \$7,500 of free dentistry to eighteen veterans. It was an engaging day for the veterans with door prizes and each patient was sent home with a care package including dental and personal care items. Dr. Tonkin's practice is located in Clifton Park. Thank you to Dr. Tonkin and her staff for remembering our veterans and providing such a wonderful service.



## October CE Course

The Fourth District was pleased to host the last CE of the year virtually. Tom Viola, a pharmacology expert gave a great morning lecture while most members were in the comfort of their own home for some interesting and informative CE. Thank you to Dr. Christina Cocozzo and Dr. Lisa Berls, CE Co-chairs for putting together a great Seminar Series this year, look for the 2023 Seminar Series brochure and registration coming soon by email and mail!

## Dr. Galati on the News

Dr. Galati has been very busy this year as President of NYSDA and we are proud that he has represented our district in so many ways....even on **TV**. The annual NYSDA state meeting will be held in Saratoga Springs next June and Dr. Galati is working hard to keep members informed and increase participation at the meeting. There will be lots of opportunities to attend and social gatherings for every member to enjoy in June 2023.



## NYSDA House of Delegates

The New York State Dental Association House of Delegates meeting will be held at the Saratoga City Center this coming year, giving 4th District members a unique opportunity close to home to attend the HOD and it's associated events. All HOD events and meetings are open to 4th District members, some requiring registration and/or an admission fee. The events include:

### Thursday June 1

AM: CE at Saratoga Hilton

PM: Golf Outing at Hiland Park Country Club, Queensbury

PM: Tennis Round Robin at Saratoga Golf & Polo

### Friday June 2

AM: Dental Foundation Awards

PM: HOD Opening Session

PM: Cocktail Reception at the National Museum of Racing, Saratoga

### Saturday June 3

AM: HOD Caucus Meetings

Spouse Event

PM: HOD Second Session

PM: President's Dinner Dance at the Hall of Springs, Saratoga

The House of Delegates is comprised of 102 voting members, and is the supreme authoritative body of the New York State Dental Association. Any Fourth District member may observe the HOD and see in person how your organization runs. The Duties of the House of Delegates include:

- Receive and act upon reports of the councils and committees
- Adopt an annual budget and establish the dues of active members for the following year
- Serve as the court of appeals from decisions of the Council on Ethics
- Elect officers, Board of Trustees, the trustee representing the Second Trustee District of the American Dental Association, the members of councils and commissions, and the delegates and alternate delegates to the American Dental Association

## Floating Doctors Helping Patients Far and Wide

In March 2021, after 27 years, I, Dr. Marc Johnson retired from serving my wonderful patients in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. I left my patients and team members in the capable hands of Dr. Joseph Juracka, a Saratoga Springs native, and his wife Diana. With my wife Angie, we set sail again for an adventure in our new to us catamaran christened “Side Two”. After living as a full-time sailing family from 2006-2010, I knew I wanted to return to areas lacking dental care and provide services. We outfitted “Side Two” with a full portable dental clinic to provide services in remote locations.



Finding a government or medical/dental only based NGO under which we could provide dental services proved to be very difficult. Government agencies said “No” or didn’t respond. Many organizations were not set up for ongoing care and only provided ‘parachute drops’ of care. I was troubled that I may have to give up on my stated goal to provide free dental care to remote communities. After a rough sail to Hampton VA, Angie met a woman, Joan, walking the docks. We filled Joan in on our frustration in finding a way to provide dental services while sailing. Joan was actually a world class sailor and a well connected activist. She told us about Floating

Doctors and the physician/sailor who was there volunteering currently. Even the name was a perfect fit, “Floating Doctors”. The Floating Doctors mission is to reduce the present and future burden of disease in the developing world, and to promote improvements in health care delivery worldwide. (<https://floatingdoctors.com/>)

After a two week sail to Panama from Florida in June 2022, Angie and I started our fellowship with Floating Doctors. We are volunteering in Bocas del Toro, Panama, a province of

Panama that is situated in the Caribbean, next to the border of Costa Rica. This Archipelago is home to one of the largest portions of Panama’s indigenous Ngäbe-Buglé population. The majority of the Ngäbe-Buglé live in small communities or villages of a few hundred to a thousand people throughout the archipelago and in the remote mountains on the mainland. A 2010 study by the Gorgas Institute of the Ngäbe-Buglé and Kuna populations revealed that 90% of individuals aged 5-75 suffer from dental caries and oral disease. Poor oral hygiene, lack of access to fluoride and poor diet have serious implications on the overall dental health and quality of life for those in the communities. Most of these communities lack running water, electricity, or sanitation. Transportation for them is by paddling a dugout canoe, for those that have one. Most of the patients we have seen have never met a dentist outside of Floating Doctors. The members of these communities face a variety of geographical, economic, and social barriers to basic healthcare and oral health education. Travel access to the nearest dental facility or provider is long, sometimes days, and expensive for this subsistence population.



As those of you who know me, know that I am not used to working in dentistry 5 days a week. Both of us are working in the harshest, most difficult conditions of our lives and loving it. We arrive at these locations via dugout canoes powered by outboard motors. Some locations require over 6 hours by boat. Sleeping in jungle hammocks to the sounds of roosters and stray dogs has been an adjustment for sure. We have met some amazing people who are all so committed to making a difference in the world. The majority of the organization is medical based and we had the pleasure of volunteering alongside our daughter, Sabrina, a 2nd year med student, for 3 weeks this summer.

Of course our primary focus is on education and prevention. Whenever possible we enter the schools for education on diet and oral hygiene. 90+% of the children have rampant tooth decay and don't understand why. We have seen more children drinking soda and juice than water and are looking to reverse those trends.

"How can I help?" you ask. We are serving these communities until around Thanksgiving 2022. After that, a new lead dental provider and dental coordinator are needed. Retiring like us? Before you get bored, come and volunteer. In the interim, we are looking for dental volunteers who are able to come help for as little as a week at a time.

We recommend at least two + weeks for dental volunteers as getting here requires an overnight in Panama City. Dental students gain excellent supervised experience here. We are actively seeking donations of supplies and funding. Our dental chairs are barely holding on and we have priced new ones at \$500 each. We have to raise the funds to purchase them. The organization receives no financial support from the Panamanian government and relies on volunteer's contributions and outside donations to provide care. To donate to the dental program visit <https://www.floatingdoctors.com> To find out more about what we are doing, how you can help or to give us feedback, email us: Dr. Marc at [dentalledad1@floatingdoctors.com](mailto:dentalledad1@floatingdoctors.com) Angie at [dentalcoordinator@floatingdoctors.com](mailto:dentalcoordinator@floatingdoctors.com)



[dentalledad1@floatingdoctors.com](mailto:dentalledad1@floatingdoctors.com)



**Fourth District  
Dental Society**  
632 Plank Road, Suite 200  
Clifton Park, NY 12065

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# Call for Volunteers

Please join us as we partner with Glens Falls Hospital and The Adirondack Thunder Hockey Team to provide oral cancer screenings and education to the fans in attendance.

**Friday March 24th and Saturday March 25th 2023**

Cool Insuring Arena, Glens Falls, NY

Save the Date! Registration coming soon!

Join the fight and let's win this battle together...game on!