

# NEWSLETTER



Spring/Summer 2015 Vol 5 No 1

## Letter from the President



I hope everyone has had a fantastic start to 2015! I am so pleased to have the honor of serving as your president this

year. Before I get to some of the things our district has planned, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our immediate past president, Dr. Loren Baim. Loren, the first female president of the district, did an amazing job leading our district last year. Thank you, Loren!

I am very excited about some of the events and programs planned for the district this year. I am looking forward to the Saratoga Dental Congress in May. I am hoping that everyone will find something interesting and educational they would like to attend. We will be sending out the brochure as we have in past years. This year we have also implemented an online registration, so be sure to visit the Fourth District website ([www.4thdds.org](http://www.4thdds.org)) for easy registration this year. We will

also hold our annual golf tournament this fall. For non-golfers, we are planning some additional continuing education in the afternoon, so please keep a watch for that later this year. We are also offering some fantastic continuing education courses. If you have not received the continuing education brochure in the mail, please do not hesitate to contact the district office.

We are also going to be facing some challenges in 2015. I'm sure everyone is aware of the upcoming e-prescribing legislation. As a practitioner, I am frustrated and annoyed at this intrusion into my practice. And, in my opinion, the worst part is that I feel it is not practitioners that will suffer (although it may mean more work and expense), but it will be our patients. I know that my patients are comforted when they need a prescription and they walk out with one in their hands. Unfortunately, this legislation has been passed by our state government and it is something that is happening

regardless of our feelings as practitioners. We are trying, though, as a district to ease and minimize the disruption and frustration this legislation will cause. We will host continuing education regarding the e-prescribing legislation and the applicable computer programs. We are also working, through NYSDA, to offer reasonably priced options for the e-prescribing programs. And again, like most of you, I don't

*Continued on pg 3*

## In This Issue:

News Updates .....	pg 2
New Members .....	pg 3
Board Meeting	
Highlights (October) .....	pg 3
Annual Installation Dinner .....	pg 4
Women Dentist Meeting .....	pg 5
New Dentist Meeting .....	pg 5
Board Meeting	
Highlights (November) .....	pg 5
I-Stop Compliance .....	pg 6
Certified Dentist Assistants .....	pg 7

# Fourth District Dental Society of New York

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, No. 3 Spring/Summer 2015

### 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: [fourthdistrictds@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fourthdistrictds@nycap.rr.com)  
Website: [www.4thdds.org](http://www.4thdds.org)

American Dental Association  
800-621-8099  
New York Dental Association  
800-255-2100

#### EDITOR

Dr. Joseph Denning

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Lynn Martin

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Dr. Mark Bauman

#### 2015 OFFICERS

Dr. Adrienne Korkosz, President  
Dr. Seth Farren, President-Elect  
Dr. Richard Hoskinson, Vice President  
Dr. Jacob Merryman, Secretary  
Dr. H. John Schutze, Treasurer

#### ADA DELEGATES

Dr. Mark Bauman Dr. Fred Wetzel

#### NYSDA TRUSTEE

Dr. Fred Wetzel

#### NYSDA DELEGATES

Dr. Mark Bauman  
Dr. Wayne Harrison  
Dr. Maybelle Hwang  
Dr. James Galati

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:

### 4th District Annual Golf Outing - Save the Date

The Annual CE and golf outing will take place on Friday, September 11, 2015 at the Hiland Golf Course in Queensbury. Continuing education details will be announced soon and the scramble format golf outing will take place, as usual from 1-6 pm. Golfers will receive a boxed lunch prior to golf and there will be raffle prizes and a dinner buffet immediately following golf. Please mark your schedule and plan to join us for a day of education and fun.

### Upcoming Continuing Education Courses

Please save the date, **Friday, April 17, 2015** for the lecture entitled *"The Evolution of the Comprehensive Care Dentist: Trials, Tribulations & Successes,"* presented by Dr. Paresh Shah. Continuing education brochures with registration forms have been mailed out and are also available on the district website ([www.4thdds.org](http://www.4thdds.org)).

### Saratoga Dental Congress

Please save the date for the Saratoga Dental Congress, our annual continuing education event, to be held **Thursday, May 21 & Friday, May 22** at the Saratoga Springs City Center and the Saratoga Hilton. This year's event includes 2 full days of speakers, a trade show, a HIPAA/Patient Privacy course, and CPR/AED course for healthcare professionals. For more information or to download registration forms please visit [www.4thdds.org](http://www.4thdds.org). New this year, we also have an online registration portal. Visit <http://www.4thdds.org/saratoga-dental-congress-registration/>

### 4<sup>th</sup> District Save The Date

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

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's ADA meeting, to be held November 5-8, 2015 in beautiful Washington D.C. This year's meeting will have over 260 Continuing Education courses (half of which have no fee) to choose from over the four day meeting including hands on workshops, live patient courses, cadaver courses, the laser pavilion and the Health and Wellness Center. The exhibit hall will have over 500 vendors available for you to review and research the latest dental products and technology. Look for registration to open in early May and plan to sign up early, as hotel space will likely fill up quickly. Please plan to attend America's Dental Meeting.

## October 2014 Board Meeting Highlights:

-The contract with Bank of America has ended, and as a result, royalties to components may end.

-Cigna is in the early stages of developing a rating system for dentists based on the fees they charge. NYSDA is working toward a resolution; but is prepared to vigorously pursue legislation, if necessary to stop the rating system.

-MedPro, a malpractice insurance carrier, charges a \$50 annual fee and MLMIC may follow suit. The state dental association will pay for new members, which may enhance recruitment.

-NYSDA Annual meeting will be held at turning Stone Casino June 10-14, 2015 and will include CE and golf.

-Dr. Jonathan Schutze, Ethics Council, stated that dental students are being considered for one-year terms as non-voting members of the committee.

-A 'Meet the Specialists' night is being planned for October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Saratoga National, as 17 new specialists have moved into the district since the last time this meeting was held in 2008.

## Letter from the President

*Continued from pg 1*

believe this legislation is a benefit to our patients or to us, as practitioners; but I do hope that as a district we will weather the storm as smoothly as possible.

In conclusion, I look forward, as your president, to facing the few challenges and enjoying the multiple successes I believe this year will bring. Thank you.

## Welcome New Members:

**Dr. Blake Rogers** – General Dentistry  
Boston University  
Halfmoon Family Dental, Clifton Park

**Dr. Steven Alexander** – Orthodontics  
University of the Pacific  
Bartlett & Alexander Orthodontics,  
Queensbury

**Dr. Mona Daneshi** – Pediatric Dentistry  
Columbia  
The Smile Lodge, Clifton Park

**Delia Morales** – General Dentistry  
University of Puerto Rico School Of Dental  
Medicine  
Galway Family Dentistry, Galway

**Dr. Hazem Elbially** – General Dentistry  
Boston University  
Hazem Elbially, DMD,  
Schoharie

## Life Members

Dr. David Betts

Dr. Michael Breault

Dr. Patrick Esmond

Dr. Stephen Feuer

Dr. Jeffrey Leitner

Dr. Randy Mc Gowan

Dr. Lawrence Seitelman



## ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER

The annual Installation dinner was held at Angelo's Prime Bar and Grill at the Hilton Garden Inn in Clifton Park. The night featured an informative talk given by Dr. Kirk Gleason about the history of the Clifton Park area. Dr. Loren Baim was honored for a wonderful year of service as president with a decorative engraved platter. The night concluded with the induction of Drs. Adrienne Korkosz, Seth Farren, Richard Hoskinson, H. John Schutze and Jacob Merryman as President; President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary, respectively. (Dr. Schutze was unable to attend).



*Dr. Adrienne Korkosz, Dr. Seth Farren, Dr. Richard Hoskinson, Dr. Jacob Merryman and Dr. H. John Schutze (not pictured).*



*Dr. Loren Baim  
Honored with a decorative engraved platter.*

## Women Dentist Meeting

The annual Fourth District Women Dentist Meeting was held on December 4th, at the Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs. The topic, “Understanding Gluten-Related Disorders,” was presented by Dr. Nata-lya Belova of Saratoga Schenectady Gastroen-terology Associates. The evening included a gluten-free food demo with Dr. Mark Bauman.

## New Dentist Meeting

On November 7th our annual New Dentist meeting was held at Saratoga National Golf Club in Saratoga Springs. The dinner program was very well attended and included speakers on Practice Transitions and Legal Matters, pre-sented by Sarah Lynch of Jim Kasper Associ-ates and Graig Zappia of Tully, Rinckey, PLLC, respectively.

Both of these meetings provide an excellent op-portunity for our members to network with their peers during educational lectures.



*Dr. Mark Bauman*

---

## November 2014 Board Meeting Highlights:

-The District Office will move on December 1<sup>st</sup>, as the current space will be occupied by a medical entity in the coming months.

-Planning for an E-Prescribe lecture was discussed as a member benefit, in view of the impending March 2015 deadline. Two events were discussed, one for the Northern Tier and one for the Southern Tier to take place in January and February.

-Another deadline, Medicare Opt In/Out, is slated for June 2015. Dr. Korkosz reported that dentists have to Opt In either way – whether to remain in or Opt Out and dentists will have to continue to manage their choice every three years.

-Dr. Reisman spoke about the Supreme Court case between the Federal Trade Commission and the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners. The FTC assessed that the board action of banning non-dentists from operating teeth whitening kiosks is a restraint of trade. He also reported the State Board of Dentistry is studying licensure procedures as they relate to certified hygienists, registered hygienists; the supervisions of hygienists and questions on the scope of a practice, i.e., should they widen to include the screening of diseases and provide flu shots.

## **Dr. Ratner Lectures on I-Stop Compliance and E-Prescribing**

In order to comply with state law, every dentist in New York is required to transmit all their patients' prescriptions electronically by March 2016. The Fourth District recently hosted a complimentary continuing education lecture to review the plethora of topics involved.

The session speaker, Dr. Craig Ratner, a dental practitioner in Staten Island and a member of the NYSDA Task Force on Technology, discussed the issues and explained the registration process in a lecture held for Fourth District members on January 29, 2015. The event took place at Schenectady County Community College and was simultaneously telecast to members at the Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital in Plattsburgh.

Dr. Ratner spoke about the origins of the law, mandates, deadlines and exceptions. He guided attendees through the e-prescribing process, focused on how it works, discussed stand alone and integrated system options, security issues and the costs involved to an audience of 110 members.





## **Certified Dental Assistants – A Wake Up Call!**

The front page story in the February edition of the NYSDA News was about the numbers and distribution of Certified Dental Assistants in NYS. To me, the implication of those numbers, showing so few CDAs in our District, suggests the possibility that there are lots of Dentists using unlicensed dental assistants (no matter how talented) to do things that are clearly against the law.

A Certified Dental Assistant can do almost any reversible procedure under the direct personal supervision of a Dentist. An unlicensed dental assistant can take X-Rays and assist the Dentist chair side, but not much else. They **cannot** take impressions, clean off temporary cement, make temporaries, take medical histories or vital signs, provide patient education, place or remove rubber dams, remove sutures, apply desensitizing agents, select and prefit ortho bands, remove arch wires and ligature ties, or do many other things that are designated as tasks of a Certified Dental Assistant. Allowing non licensed dental assistants to perform these functions is a Class E felony and can result in a fine and up to 4 years in prison.

As pointed out in the article by Drs. Waldman and Balacky, there are 99 dental offices in Saratoga County and only 34 Certified Dental Assistants. Schenectady has 68 Dental offices with only 10 Certified Dental Assistants. All of the other counties in our District have less than 10 Certified Dental Assistants each. The Certified Dental Assistants are not distributed evenly, several offices have 3 or more and most of the Orthodontic offices have more than one Certified Dental Assistant so that leaves most General Dentist Offices with none or maybe one. (Even more startling: Brooklyn has 917 offices and only 18 Certified Dental Assistants, Nassau has 1079 offices and only 25 Certified Dental Assistants, Suffolk has 782 offices and only 48 Certified Dental Assistants, and Westchester has 676 offices and only 11 Certified Dental Assistants).

Let's be frank. The Dental Association originally proposed this law to protect the Dentists who were being selectively punished for allowing expanded duties. It was envisioned as a simple way of licensing the many talented and knowledgeable Dental Assistants that were and are already working in our offices. Unfortunately, once the law was passed, the State Education Dept. wrote the regulations making the licensing process difficult, time consuming, and expensive---the exact opposite of what the Dental Association intended. In recent years the Dental Association has worked hard to streamline the process for currently working assistants, but it still requires online schooling, mentoring by the Dentist, and passage of the National DANBY exam. On a positive note, Dental Assistants can perform all the duties legally while they are training and preparing for the exam.

Over the years I have had 6 assistants become certified. The first 3 involved a difficult and expensive multiyear process through Monroe Community College but the newer streamlined and less expensive process through HVCC has allowed the last 3 to complete the requirements much faster and they all passed the exam and became licensed. They all value their status and are proud of what they accomplished and they all became better employees, worth every penny and the time I spent to help them.

We may not like this law but we are stuck with it and it is not worth your license or livelihood to ignore it. Any patient or employee can report you anonymously to the Office of Professional Discipline. It is only a matter of time before a Certified Dental Assistant reports a non licensed dental assistant performing "their duties."

My advice is this: if you have talented and capable non-licensed dental assistants in your office, that you want to perform any expanded duties, encourage them and pay for them to become certified. You will be making them better employees, you will be increasing the efficiency and production of your office, and you will be protecting yourself and them from unwanted trouble. It is worth it!

*Kirk Gleason*



**Fourth District  
Dental Society**

632 Plank Road, Suite 200  
Clifton Park, NY 12065

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALBANY NY  
PERMIT #819

## **Fourth District Newsletter**