

New Haven Dental Association NEWSBRIEF

A BULLETIN FOR NEW HAVEN DENTAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

AUGUST 2005

Officers 2005 - 2006

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Dr. Morton Weyler

Dr. Sheldon H. Natkin

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NHDA Website
www.newhavendental.org

HAPPY SUMMER!

2005-06 SCHEDULE

Note: Some of this year's meetings have been moved to the New Haven LAWN club, across from the Peabody Museum in downtown New Haven, while the New Haven COUNTRY Club undergoes winter renovations.

OCTOBER 6, NEW HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB (Thurs)
Legislative Night - we are already making contacts to make this the best legislative night ever.

NOVEMBER 3, NEW HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB (Thurs)
Dr. Marty Goldstein on "Comfort Zone Cosmetics: The Abridged Version "

DECEMBER 6, NEW HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB (Tues)
Annual Holiday Party - "Significant others" are encouraged to join in the reverie!

FEBRUARY 2, 2006, NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB (Thurs)
Home Talent Night

MARCH 2, NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB (Thurs)
Staff Night - Speaker TBA: But we're working on a national expert on artistic expression of the human smile for this one!

APRIL 6, NEW HAVEN LAWN CLUB (Thurs)
Speaker TBA

MAY 4, Back at NEW HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB
Annual Banquet

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, happy summer everyone - I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and great weather, with all the time you deserve to enjoy family and friends. We on the board hope to have a great year planned for the NHDA; We haven't secured any nationally-known speakers, (yet!)... but I encourage you to fill out the enclosed questionnaire so we can better gauge who you'd like to hear. And since there's so much information to give out in this newsletter, I won't waste space imparting any of my sage advice. Well, maybe a little advice, from Dave Barry:

- There is a very fine line between "Hobby" and "Mental Illness".
- Never be afraid to try something new - remember that a lone amateur built the Ark, while a large group of professionals built the Titanic.
- A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person.
- People who want to "share" their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them. The same goes for politics.
- You should not confuse your career with your life.
- Your friends love you anyway.

Have Fun! - Doug Rollins

Here are the issues this year I want us to be thinking about (other than not ending sentences in prepositions):

ITEM ONE: THE DENTAL PRACTICE ACT - It has been signed, it should be in effect by October, and it makes some LONG needed changes to:

- 1) The definition of Dentistry (mostly affecting Oral Surgeons),
- 2) Making 25 hours/year of CE mandatory (which must include infectious disease ed, Access to care, risk management, domestic violence, and care for special needs pts). Dentists will keep their own records on this and supply them on request for CE.
- 3) Making legal the taking of radiographs by certified dental assistants,
- 4) Allowing FTD's (dentists, not florists) to get licensure after a two year residency, AND three years at a federally qualified health plan, all under Uconn Dental supervision, AND passing of the NERBS
- 5) Allow PGY-1's (at an accredited American or Canadian program) to avoid the practical portion of the licensing exam, as long as they still go via the NERB pathway.
- 6) Allow supervised, (trained and certified) hygienists to administer local anaesthesia.

Anyway, tremendous gratitude to Shelly Natkin and the other tireless authors of this bill!

2005-2006 NHDA Committee Assignments

Annual Outing

Joseph Siracuse

Children's Dental Health

Jim Pucci - Chairperson

CSDA Board of Governors Rep (District IV)

Shelley Natkin

Delegates to the CSDA HOD (8)

Kurt Koral

Tom Duplinsky

Doug Rollins

Phil Harrington

Mark Previt

Gary Ross

John Plachtyna

Jerry Alexander

Alternate Delegates:

Art McDermott

Jim Quigley

Avie Goldstein

David Fantarella

Dental Caring

Henry Cohen

Eli Whitney DA Program Liaison

Dean Cloutier

Ethics

Harold Horton

Mentoring

Jerry Alexander

Nominating

Tom Duplinsky - Chairperson

Avie Goldstein

Dean Cloutier

Peer Review (14)

Michael Brown - Chairperson

Robert Pantera

Rodney Steller

Phil Harrington

Alan Friedler

Joseph Gargano

Anthony Dioguardi

Lisbeth Steen

David Pinkert

Richard Panagrossi

James Quigley

David Fantarella

John Plachtyna

Joseph Forrester

Stephen Malinconico

Program Committee

Richmond Hung - Chairperson

Barry Weiss

Jerry Alexander

Public Info. Committee

Jerry Alexander

Doug Rollins

Dean Cloutier

Bruce Cha

Scholarship

Alan Friedler - Chairperson

David Kusovitsky

Jerry Alexander

Sick and Visiting

Gary Ross

David Gibson

UNH Liaison

Jerry Alexander

Website

Bruce Cha

NHDA Treasury Report 2004-2005

INCOME	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Dues	16,500	12,006
Trustee Account	8,200	9,500
Meetings/Outings	13,600	18,873
TOTALS	38,300	40,379
EXPENSES	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Meetings/Outings	16,300	22,330
Annual Meeting	4,200	6,836
Charity	500	300
Honoraria	1,500	1,000
Telephone	800	485
Supplies	200	0
Dental Health Ed.	2000	2,612
Secretarial	900	750
Postage/Printing	4,000	3,880
Gifts	200	0
Misc.	100	0
Executive Board	3,200	1,812
H.O.D.	600	272
Scholarship	2,000	2,500
Professional Fees	500	525
Bank Charges	100	110
Web Site	1,000	915
TOTALS	38,300	44,327

There are three issues with this past year's budget versus the actual expenses:

- 1 - Overruns in meetings/outings for income and expense (from including the golf figures);
- 2 - The annual meeting - great attendance and a greatly increased bar tab; and
- 3 - The Dues we received from the state are way down - we're looking into this one!

Respectfully submitted, Karen Gallo, DMD - Outgoing Treasurer

Trustee's Report 2004-2005

The trustees have met twice this calendar year to review and update the portfolio of our association. We have maintained our conservative investment distribution approach, with about 70% in equities and the remainder in bonds and cash. The balance has remained more than stable remembering that our association requires support, as dues alone do not suffice in covering the costs of our meetings and education benefits.

The value is approximately \$250,000.00 as of early August 2005; this represents over a 6% gain over last year, even after we contribute to the association. We on the Board of Trustees hope that these contributions are benefitting the members of our association who come to meetings to take advantage of all that is offered.

Very truly yours, David Kusovitsky, DMD - Executive Trustee

ITEM TWO: UNITED HEALTH CARE's taking over of the state employees' dental insurance needs. Some direct quotes from the Comptroller:

"Non participating dentists will be paid at the same rate or higher by the Basic Plan than they are currently paid under of the State of CT Dental Plan administered by Anthem...In exchange for these improved payment levels and payment turnaround, we request that you continue your current billing practices for state employees and retirees... All current participants...with Anthem will be automatically enrolled in the UHC Dental Basic Plan unless they choose the Aetna DMO Plan or the new United Dental Enhanced PPO plan. The enhanced PPO Plan offers some improvements in covered benefits for members, but as with all PPO networks, **d i s c o u n t s** the fees paid to providers. We are suggesting that members should only join the Enhanced PPO Plan if their dentists are part of the United Dental PPO Network..."

Any questions? Please call Peggy Bushy, RDH, UHC's dental rep in CT, at 860-663-0214, or 1-800-663-8099.

ITEM THREE: UNH STATUS REPORT.

Sandy Palumbo continues to be the "little engine that could" behind this ever impressive program. For four years running, 100% of Sandy's (AS and BS degree) hygiene candidates have passed the rigorous National Dental Hygiene Board Exam - on their first try. The entire 2005 class passed their NERBs on their first try, as well.

The classes are essentially now filled; 36 in the sophomore year, 17 at the freshman level. Of those 36 second year students, 6 are coming from the Three Rivers Community College program's articulation agreement. In September of 2005, UNH is starting the same agreement with Gateway Community College; this will further ensure that this novel three year hygiene program continues to produce graduates of the highest quality, while adding hygienists at maximum capacity back to the dental community. Kudos as always to Sandy and her terrific team.

Also, we received two heartfelt and eloquent letters from our UNH scholarship recipients, Patricia Diamond and Kathy Redden. We'll make these letters available on the website (www.newhavendental.org)

ITEM FOUR: ACCESS TO 10 AND UNDER.

At a spring CSDA HOD meeting, the presidents of the local societies were charged with coming up with "grassroots-level" approaches for accessing dental care to the poor and underserved child population (they chose age 10 and under; seems like a nice round number to us). Dr. Hung and Dr. Rollins will be meeting with Dr. Singletary (the new director of the YNHH Dental programs) to discuss how YNHH and NHDA can work together on this. Meanwhile, Gwen Grasso at UNH may already showing us the way; she and her colleagues are working on a grant to bring children into the UNH Dental Hygiene Center for initial dental care and referral services. More to come on this one; helping on this project would count towards some of the above mentioned CE hours. If interested, call Doug Rollins at 288-0900.

New Haven Dental Association
Dr. Karen Gallo
35 High Street
East Haven, CT 06512

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Jim Pucci took Low Gross at 80 and longest drive at a split-thickness flapping 309 yards. Michael Kim took second low gross at 82 (and the "straightest" drives, naturally!), while Jack Berns cruised to third with 85. Bob Pantera and John Gisondi tied for low net, and Bobby P. chamfered one 4' 4" to the ninth for closest to the pin honors. Alex Tumeniuk and Doug Rollins tied for second low net at 73 (probably one computer error there), and they and Chris Cogullo (heretofore the "Millford Boys") closed down the grill room well after the last putt fell.

If you golf, you really should try this event. There's nothing better for the professional ego than the sharing in the common bonds of humiliation at the hands of this horrid sport. And nobody hosts it better than Joe Syracuse, to which the golfers are annually, if not eternally, grateful. Thanks, Joe!

"ASK A DENTIST"

Bruce Cha has asked me to inform you that the NHDA website is starting an "Ask the Dentist" section, whereby the public can ask questions that will be answered by member dentist - a great service we can give easily! We look to publicize this with the media this fall; should anyone be interested in helping out, please call Dr. Cha at 281-6574

QUESTIONNAIRE 2005

We'd like to know three basic things this year; how to better communicate with you, how to make the meetings better, and how to assess the utility your phone advertising.

PLEASE CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY FOR EVERY QUESTION;
And, add any comments on the back side in the gray box. Thanks!

1) I would like to receive my monthly NHDA newsletter.....

A - The same way as before, by mail

B - By e-mail, so it comes as an attachment to me every month

C - Both of the above

D - ... you don't need to send it at all - Since it's on the website, I'll get it there, or not at all.

2) I like I don't like... (circle one) to come to monthly NHDA meetings because of:

A - The other dentists there

B - The lecturers (anyone you'd like to hear?)

C - The topics of the lectures (any topic you'd like to hear?)

D - The meal / cost

E - The location

F - Other:

For the following, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO HAVE YOUR STAFF FILL THIS OUT...

3a) Do you pay to advertise in the Phone Books?

A - SBC New Haven Book

B - Local SBC Books

C - "Yellow " Book

D - Other Phone book:

3b) Do you use for your ad:

A - Name only under "dentists"

B - An enlarged column - a 1/8th pg ad - a 1/4 pg ad - a 1/2 pg ad - a full pg ad

C - In the "guide" for GP's or specialists

D - An additional ad within the "guide"

3c) How much do you estimate you pay (per year) for all of this? _____/yr

3d) How does this phone bok advertising work for you? Do you get lots of new patients? Good patients? Is it a reference book for patients of record only? Please explain below:

If you put your name below and send this in, you'll get a 2nd free drink at the next meeting you attend.
If you send it without your name, the board will be happy to drink for you when we go over these :-)

Name _____

Comments:

FOLD HERE

New Haven Dental Association

QUESTIONNAIRE 2005

FOLD HERE

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