

## 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT TRUSTEE REPORT

### a) Legislative/ Regulatory Issues

#### a. PDHDP Site Regulatory Proposal

- i. The Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association asked the State Board of Dentistry(SBOD) to expand the sites that Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PHDHPs) can practice. The new sites include hospice/homebound patient settings, primary care settings (including pediatric physician offices), and childcare settings. The PDA has opposed this proposal from the beginning arguing that the primary responsibility of the SBOD is the health and well-being of the citizens of our state. The current sites all have other health care providers that have advanced training to assist if an emergency occurs. This safety net is not available for hospice settings, homebound settings and in childcare settings. The PDA has also argued that primary care providers in physician offices are not trained to diagnose and treatment plan dental pathology.
- ii. Despite PDA's opposition as well as opposition from several other dental groups, the SBOD voted on September 13<sup>th</sup> to move forward with the draft regulations.
- iii. We still have several opportunities to make changes in this regulatory proposal.
- iv. One of the issues in this fight has been the fact that the SBOD still has 2 voting "dentist" seats that the Governor has not filled and does not seem to be interested in filling soon!
- v. Thank you to all the PDA members that wrote letters to the SBOD!!
- vi. Not all correspondences that I received from members were in opposition to this draft regulation. However, the vast majority of members did oppose this proposal to expand practice sites for PHDHPs.

#### b. Assignment of Benefits

- i. The PDA has aggressively been lobbying for assignment of benefits legislation that would "honor patient's requests to assign benefits directly to dentists, regardless of whether or not the dentist participates with the insurer".
- ii. Please ask your legislator to be a co-sponsor to House Bill 823 and Senate Bill 373!

#### c. Other Issues

- i. Please read the Government Relations section of our Pennsylvania Dental Journal for more information on the following issues:
  1. Insurer Credentialing
  2. Surprise Balance Billing
  3. Mail Order Orthodontics
  4. Restrictive Covenants
  5. Opioid Prescribing Guidelines
  6. Telemedicine

### b) PDA Board Actions

- a. The Board has been working on focusing on member needs. At a recent Board work-shop the Board agreed to focus on the following goals:
  - i. One-Year Goal

1. Direct the membership committee to hire a marketing company to survey member and non-member needs, taking into account a demographic cross section of Pennsylvania Dentists. PDA will then devise a plan to deliver and implement the top needs.

ii. Two-year Goal

1. Strengthen committees/advisory groups

- a. • Reinstitute the training of committees/advisory groups, particularly that of the chairs
- b. • A recording secretary from each committee/advisory group will make a summary of each meeting
- c. • Two weeks prior to every Board meeting, a written report by the chair will be sent, and will include updates on the activity of the committees/advisory groups
- d. • During each Board meeting the liaisons will communicate the activities of their respective committees/advisory groups
- e. • The appropriate committee/advisory group will be included in on Board discussions relevant to their work

iii. Three-Year Goal

1. Enhance focus on the local/branch level

- a. • Reinstitute the annual leadership conference to, in part, provide information to local presidents
- b. • Utilize the Council of Presidents and trustees to improve two-way communication between the Central Office and the local/branch president and secretary
- c. • Utilize the Council of Presidents and PDA staff to educate the locals/branches on the programs available through PDA
- d. • Request that the locals/branches submit to their trustee a list of "needs" at the conclusion of their meeting year
- e. • The PDA Component and Membership Coordinator will serve as the staff liaison to the locals/branches

iv. Ongoing Goal

1. Commit to creating a strategic plan to be monitored and reviewed regularly, discussed at every Board meeting and used as the basis for all PDA decision making and budgeting.
- b. We have heard your complaints about canceling future PDA Day on the Hill!!!! As a result, the board directed that the Government Relations Committee, with PDA lobbyist, discuss the feasibility of a Day on the Hill event in 2018 and report back to the board with a recommendation at its October 2017 meeting
- c. The board discussed and unanimously voted to develop a taskforce to study online CE and the purchase of the learning management software.

- d. We have also heard your complaints about our current PDA website. As a first step, the board suggested the website analytics report be distributed also to the Membership Committee, New Dentist Committee, and the Communications and PR Advisory Group and that the Board seek feedback from these groups .
- c) I want you to share your needs with me!
  - a. Please email me at [shipdentist@gmail.com](mailto:shipdentist@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

Gary S. Davis, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Trustee