

RDDS NEWS Fall 2005 edition

Brian Rathke, DDS - Editor

RDDS 2005 HOLIDAY PARTY

The RDDS Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2005 at the Williamsburg Dinner Theatre. There will be a cash bar with cocktail hour beginning at 6:00 PM, followed by a dinner program featuring Dominic Fortuna at 7:00. Dr. Wayne Olsen says it is as good as Broadway! Formal invitations will be sent out by the first week of November, RSVP by December 1. Members will also be asked to bring a new toy (approximately \$20.00 value) to be donated to Toys For Tots. For more information, call Dr. Wayne Olsen or contact him directly from his direct link on the RDDS website – www.rdds.org. As always, the RDDS Holiday Party is an event not to be missed!!!! *****NOTE – This date was originally announced as Friday the 9th. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

MEMBER IDEAS AND INPUT WANTED

RDDS is seeking input and ideas for a featured speaker for 2007. We would like to book a nationally recognized speaker (like John Kois in 2006) and speakers of this caliber are in high demand. Now is the time to be making plans for 2007, so if any members have ideas or suggestions, please contact Dr. Cote. Some names we have discussed are Gordon Christenson, Frank Spears, Pete Dawson, and Ross Nash. Are there other speakers you would like to bring to our district? Thanks in large part to the generosity of Dr. Charles Ardis, who donated money to be used for dental continuing education, the Resort District will be planning to bring national speakers to our area. Now is your time to provide input.

President Dan Cote is also asking members to be thinking of topics for the RDDS Scientific Meeting on February 7, 2006. Entitled “Clinical Pearls of Private Practice”, this meeting will be a table clinic format like last year’s. If you have an idea or would like to be a presenter, contact an RDDS officer by phone or by their direct links on the RDDS website – www.rdds.org.

The MDA is looking for similar input on programs and speakers for the Annual Session. Contact them directly.

The MDA is also accepting nominations for the following awards: John G. Nolen Meritorious Award, Dr. Emmett Bolden Dentist Citizen of the Year Award, New Dentists Leadership Award, Public Service Awards, and Public Relations Awards. Deadline is November 1, 2005. Contact Michelle Nichols-Cruz at the MDA for more information at (517) 372-9070.

DENTAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY PLANNED FOR JANUARY

We are tentatively planning on January 20, 2006 as the date for our presentation of Sally McKenzie at the Milliken Auditorium. Aimed at dentists as well as their staffs, the program is entitled "Solving Today's Key Practice Issues" and addresses several key issues facing dental practices today that dramatically affect production and profitability. Formal invitations will be sent out in the near future. Bring your staff for a day of team building!

REMINDER TO ACCESS THE WEBSITE

Please visit the Resort District Dental Society website at www.rdds.org and review your personal information listed on our members page. If there have been changes (e-mail addresses, websites, phone numbers, etc.), or if you would like additions made, please contact Dan Cote or Scott Schulz via their direct links on the website.

LOCAL DENTAL PROFESSIONALS DONATE SERVICES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During the first week of October, five members of the local dental community traveled to Samana, which is located on the Northeast shore of the Dominican Republic. It was the first time that any dental services were donated as part of the Midwest Medical Mission which was established in 1974 by a Toledo, Ohio physician. Each year dedicated doctors, nurses, and now dental professionals from the Midwest travel to Samana, which is a very 3rd world area with very few dental resources.

The dental team saw approximately 90 patients, young and old, for dental extractions and over 1500 dental care kits were given primarily to school age children. This was accomplished by going directly to the schools to provide education.

Participants were Dr. David Howard, D.D.S., Ange Wiebe, C.D.A., Sue Schlueter, C.D.A., Robin McGrath, R.D.H., and Nancy Toteff, R.D.H. They hope that these dental services can be given each year. Anyone interested in donating or participating should contact Dr. David Howard.

A big thanks go out to all of those that donated dental supplies or funds for this mission. With your help it was a mission accomplished!

SEND EMAIL TO MDA

The MDA Executive Director's Update is no longer going to be sent out in paper copies. It will be "e-mail only" starting in October. If you are interested in receiving correspondence from the MDA, make sure that they have your current e-mail address. You can call them directly or go to their website. We have a direct link at our website – www.rdds.org.

ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE LEGISLATION ENACTED

Submitted by Bonnie Nothoff

Below is a synopsis of HB 4996, which is intended to increase access to dental care of underserved populations.

In 1991, PA 58, 1991 was passed which allowed Registered Dental Hygienists to serve underserved populations under certain circumstances. This had to do, largely, at that time, with migrant workers. As you know, the RDH works under "assignment" in the state of Michigan which means the dentist examines and treatment plans the patient before that patient is seen by the hygienist. In the original legislation, assignment was "waived" so the hygienist could see the patient first and provide services. This was because dentists were not always available as in the case with migrant workers. A stipulation was that "supervision" was necessary by a dentist. There were other parameters like 50% funding coming from public or non profit organization sources and contracting could only be with the dentist. The problem: Programs that had to be approved by the MDCH were having a lot of difficulty with the funding source because it no longer existed. So when 2 year renewal came up, they were unable to do so. In 14 years, we were down to about 6 programs. Hygienists wanted to set up these programs but there was a great deal of red tape to do so. Also, there were other populations, equally under served, who did not meet the criteria. The MDHA worked closely with the MDA and the Department of Community Health to update this legislation so that it could truly serve the under served. They came to agreement in negotiations and HB 4996 became a reality and was signed into law on October 4, 2005. It will be referred to now as PA 161, 2005. The bill was even written up in MIRS (publication out of Lansing) as "Governor pens Access to Care bill." The update includes the following important changes:

1. It targets nursing homes and schools as well as other under served populations.
2. It no longer requires 50% funding from public or non profit organizations
3. Supervision by the dentist is maintained - assignment is waived - same as before. Both provisions are the same as they were in the original PA 58, 1991.
4. A hygienist can set up the program and be the "entity" but she must contract with a dentist for the supervision. Supervision means in contact with and providing communication with radiographs, histories, etc. The dentist does not have to be physically present.

There is additional information on this legislation in this month's MDA Journal or members can contact Bonnie directly at 231-264-6021.

HYGIENIST'S CORNER

Submitted by Jennifer Van Wingen, RDH – President of NDHS

Another great year has been planned to provide member hygienists with **12 FREE CEUs**. Remember to sign your hygienists up for membership in order to save money on CEUs and take advantage of everything membership has to offer. Call President, Jennifer Van Wingen, BS, RDH at **231-275-5982** for more information. Dentists are welcome to attend all CEUs. Here is the schedule of events:

Nov 2nd- **“Annual Perio Update”**, Presented by Dr. Amalfitano, Traverse City Public Library, 1CEU, followed by a short business meeting, 7-9pm

Dec 7th- This year’s **Winter Party** to be held at Bonnie Nothoff’s house in Elk Rapids, more info coming.

Jan 11th- **“Celiac Disease Identification and Treatment, for the Dental Hygienist”**, Traverse City Public Library, 1CEU, followed by a short business meeting, 7-9pm

Jan 31st- **“Behind the Scenes”**, DH Baker Dental lab, 1 CEU, no business meeting to follow, 7-8pm. Contact Susan Ansorge, RDH, BA for information 231-941-1078

Feb 11th- **Toothville**, 10am-12pm, Traverse City Public Library. **Last year we served over 300 children and received radio and television coverage.** Contact Toothville Coordinator- Jennifer Van Wingen, BS, RDH for more information or to volunteer 231-275-5982.

March 18th- **“Forensic Odontology”**, Presented by the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for Kent County, Dr Start, 5 CEU’s, 8:30am-2pm (look for mailing), Seminar Chair- Rene’ Louchart, RDH BS

April 5th- **Business Meeting Only** (program planning for next year and officer nominations), Traverse City Public Library, 7-9pm

May 3rd- **“Annual OSHA Update”**, Presented by Rene’ Louchart, RDH, BS, Traverse City Public Library, 1CEU, followed by a short business meeting and elections, 7-9pm

June 7th- **Year End Party**, TBA

Remember! If you are looking for a **substitute hygienist**, you may *request a list* of available subs at Northland’s new email address:

northlandhygienists@yahoo.com

Would you like to **advertise in Northland’s Member Booklet**? This booklet is given to all members, free of charge, and includes schedule of events, member roster, and advertisers. Advertising is set at \$25.00 per business card size ad to help offset the cost of the booklets. All member hygienists reference this book frequently throughout the year. If you’d like to advertise and support your local hygienists, call Jennifer Van Wingen at **231-275-5982**. The deadline is noon on Oct 24th.

In Northland's winter newsletter, they will be releasing the results of their **Salary Survey**. This survey includes member and nonmember hygienists from Petoskey to Cadillac. Look for more news to follow.

NEW DENTIST FEATURE

Ryan Halbower, DDS

Hello. My name is Ryan Halbower and I just recently moved to Traverse City as an opportunity opened up with John Kerns' office on the East Bay bordering with Acme. I was born and raised in Whitehall, Michigan where I fostered a great respect and love for the outdoors. Hunting and fishing became very much a part of me. Therefore, my decision to ultimately settle in Traverse City was an easy one. I also enjoyed many competitive sports as well. In 1993 I won the state championship in tennis for Whitehall playing 1st doubles. After high school I attended Kalamazoo College and received a Bachelors of Arts in biology. While there, I attended Africa University in Mutare Zimbabwe for 7 months. Luckily, I had an opportunity to partake in a safari hunt and came away with Safari Club International's Silver Award for harvesting the 43rd largest leopard taken. After undergrad, I followed my girlfriend to Ann Arbor where she was training for her Masters degree in education. I worked at both the Dental school and the hospital there during that year to help support us through. Upon receiving her degree from U of M, I enrolled in the School of Public Health and received a Masters of Public Health in toxicology. During my training as a toxicologist I came to the realization that one of my strengths was in dealing with people and how much I valued personal interaction over dissecting lab rats in a basement day after day. My experience working at the Dental school as a materials dispenser turned out to be truly valuable in helping me make my final decision in which way my life was going to go. Right out of my masters program I got married and enrolled in Boston University's Goldman School of Dental Medicine. I chose Boston because my wife and I value different life experiences very highly. Since we had never lived in a big city I thought this was my chance. Additionally, Boston's program is very unique. Several months in both the first and second years are earmarked to give the students opportunities to actually work in a professional dental setting as an assistant. In the 3rd year we take another 10 weeks from the clinic and are assigned a placement where we outright practice dentistry. I was assigned Ft. Myers, Florida. I had a very positive experience working with Family Health Centers (a Medicaid clinic) where I had the opportunity to do additional volunteer work on the side helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Charley that decimated numerous Latino neighborhoods in Port Charlotte. My Spanish got pretty good as well. And this brings me back to Traverse City. I signed on with John Kerns as an associate and will see where it goes from there. I have been having a blast working with him and have truly appreciated the kind words and warm welcome I have felt from both the professional and patient community here in Traverse City. My wife and I are both new to the area, and do not know many people so if you want to go out for a drink or need another man on your line for bird hunting, look me up.