

# NWDDA NEWS

The Official Newsletter of The Northwest District Dental Association



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2011

## 2011 FDA SEMI-ANNUAL HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) House of Delegates Semi-Annual Session was held January 21-22 in Tampa, where nineteen resolutions were discussed and voted on during the meeting.

The House approved resolutions to:

- accept the Strategic Plan for 2011-2013
- accept the Access to Dental Care dental package
- amend the FDA's policy on the clinical licensure exam
- develop requirements for those seeking licensure in Florida more than one year after taking the ADEX examination
- develop a proposal for a dental hygiene response team to address access
- establish training guidelines for dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia
- change the schedule at the June FNDC meeting
- establish criteria for appointing a Speaker Pro Tem
- reduce dues for full time dental and dental hygiene faculty
- evaluate the dental assisting programs' certification process
- change the duration of the ADA delegation chair and vice-chair terms of service
- confirm the FDA's collaboration with key advocacy groups.

The House defeated resolutions to:

- create a fourth automatic delegate on the ADA delegation
- establish a dental school faculty forum at FNDC
- create designated delegates for faculty members.



The FDA House of Delegates in session

The House referred a resolution to the Council on Dental Education and Licensure to review the EFDA duties and setting, and elected new members to the ADA delegation, including NWDDA member Dr. Robert Payne as at-large alternate delegate.

Dr. Larry Nissen, FDA President, addressed access to care, potential licensure changes, membership concerns and the upcoming legislative agenda. Regarding access to care, Dr. Nissen spoke on empowering current dental team members, joint FDA/FDHA legislation regarding school-based fluoride and sealant programs and the developing FDA's white paper outlining steps needed to tackle the multi-faceted access to care issue. On licensure, Dr. Nissen discussed changes pending as a result of the Florida exam's likeness to the ADEX exam. The Florida Board of Dentistry has voted to move to the ADEX exam. Florida's new governor, however, may decide to outsource licensure exams and eliminate the Testing Services Department. President Nissen addressed growing concern with FDA's membership market share and updated delegates on

FDA's Membership Task Force, whose goals are recruiting new and retaining existing members. Finally, Dr. Nissen discussed the legislative agenda, which includes three bills introduced by FDA's sponsors. These bills include non-covered services and workforce survey/health care establishment permit fix/Florida Healthy Kids Board of Directors. Also, a new bill filed by Senator Alan Hays and Representative Fred Costello, both dentists, will establish school-based fluoride and sealant programs.

ADA President Dr. Ray Gist addressed the House regarding challenges facing the dental profession and the ADA. He emphasized the successful exemption of dentists from the Red Flags Rule, saving dentists \$72 million nationwide and protecting dental professionals from taxes on dental insurance premiums and cosmetic dental

procedures originally proposed. He recommended addressing all barriers to access to care and stressed that scattered measures are not the ultimate solution. Dr. Gist aspired to a future nation that values the elimination of dental disease, from prenatal to elder care, and encouraged the delegation that together we can open eyes, ears and hearts.

Dr. Thad Morgan, Chair of the Florida Board of Dentistry, reported on several Board changes. One change is the placement of ketamine in the general sedation category; Dr. Morgan suggested that airway management courses may become mandatory for sedation permits. He discussed the increase in disciplinary cases and suggested that dentists remain within their comfort zone and complete multiple CE courses for new procedures before implementation. Dr. Morgan explained that if the licensure resolution was passed, the Board of Dentistry and Florida would have a fallback position in case the governor eliminates the exam. With legislation in place, Florida will essentially have an identical exam (ADLEX) to the current exam.

17th District Trustee Dr. Sam Low gave an ADA status report and challenged the House to embrace the ADA's new vision as the oral health authority committed to the public and the profession. FNDC chair Dr. Neil Torgerson, presented the new FNDC2011 schedule.

The NWDDA was well served by its attendees: Dr. Steve Bryan (chair), Dr. Howard Fisher, Dr. Eddie Martin (credentials), Dr. Greg Goodreau (alternate trustee), Dr. Robert Payne, Dr. Randy Rigsby and Dr. David Russell, delegates; Dr. Kim Jernigan, FDA First Vice President; Dr. Jolene Paramore, trustee; Dr. Neil Torgerson, FNDC Chair; Dr. Jay Walton, FDHF President; and Mrs. Angel Estep, Executive Director. The next House of Delegates meeting will be June 9-11 in Orlando.



Dr. Randy Rigsby, Dr. Rudy Liddell (West Coast District), Dr. Eddie Martin, Dr. Robert Payne, ADA President Dr. Ray Gist and Dr. David Russell

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Message From 2010-2011 NWDDA President, Dr. Jean Woo

Dear NWDDA Members,

Welcome to a new decade in the new millennium! It is hard to believe that it has been ten years since we were worried about Y2K! This also means that some issues that have been debated for at least the last decade are now on the forefront. The FDA Board of Trustees has been in contact with all members regarding two pressing issues, the extent to which non-dentist members of the dental team, or mid-level providers, should be used to deliver care to those in need, and the extent to which Florida's licensure process should be changed.

In December the Board of Dentistry met and voted to join the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX). As you know, Florida is one of two states that have held fast to our state licensing exam. There is, however, huge pressure to allow licensure by reciprocity. The FDA House of Delegates voted in January to amend policy so that legislation can be backed supporting the move to the ADLEX exam in Florida, maintaining a high level of integrity and strength in Florida's licensure process.

With a new Congress, it is even more important than ever that we support our leaders in the FDA and ADA. We will need their vigilance to watch out for issues that affect future healthcare coverage for ourselves and our patients, how we practice dentistry, how we operate as a small business ... the list goes on.

On a lighter note, remember to mark your calendars for the 2011 NWDDA Annual Meeting, August 12-13 at Bay Point Marriott in Panama City Beach. I can make two promises: We will have a great meeting, and the President of the United States will not be visiting!

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your 2010-2011 President. Please feel free to contact me at [jwoo246951@aol.com](mailto:jwoo246951@aol.com) or at 850.243.7177.

Sincerely, Jean Woo, DDS

## AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

Find out what is going on with the affiliates of the Northwest District

### Bay Dental Society

The Bay County Dental Society's Give Kids a Smile event is scheduled for Friday, February 4 at Gulf Coast Community College's dental building. Bay Dental has formed a study club, with a goal of meeting every other month. The first meeting was a great success. The next study club meeting will be held Thursday, March 31 at Dr. Reese Harrison and Dr. Derek Wall's office. The topic will be *Options for Reconstruction of the Edentulous Maxilla*. New members in the Bay Dental Society are Dr. Deborah Crecraft, Dr. Kristanya Henson and Dr. Aly Morshed.



Dr. Deborah Crecraft,  
Panama City

volunteer members. In 2010, LCDA members donated 421 visits to 193 patients with a total of \$159,544 in dental care donated. Another success of the We Care dental component was obtaining over \$55,600 in donations last year. A special congratulations to Dr. Steven Bryan for being recognized at the 2010 NWDDA Annual Meeting with the NWDDA Service Award. He is a tireless leader in many areas of service to our association, and we appreciate his continued dedication. The next meeting of the Leon County Dental Association is Tuesday, March 8 at 6:00 pm at Georgio's Restaurant, and will feature a lecture by Dr. Phillip Simon on traumatized teeth and endodontics. On Thursday, May 12, the affiliate's annual Social Event will be held at Dorothy B. Oven Park. New members in the Leon County Dental Association are Dr. Ransey Boyd and Dr. Phillip Simon.

### Escambia-Santa Rosa County Dental Association

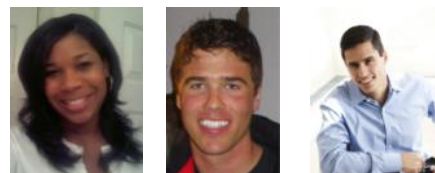
Escambia-Santa Rosa County Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile event is scheduled Friday, March 11 from 12:00 pm-5:00 pm and Saturday, March 12 from 8:00 am-4:00 pm at Pensacola State College, Warrington Campus. Free transportation will be provided for patients and their families on March 12. On Friday, February 18, the association will sponsor, in collaboration with West Florida AHEC, *Shedding Light on Oropharyngeal Cancer* with Dr. Catherine M. Flaitz. The seminar will be held at Sacred Heart Hospital from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Attendees will receive 4 CE credits. Future membership meetings will be held March 14 (a representative from Patterson Dental will discuss the Sirona system), Monday, April 11 (special discussion regarding FAMU dental school) and Monday, May 9. All meetings begin at 6:00 pm and are held at McGuire's Irish Pub. New members in the Escambia-Santa Rosa Dental Association are Dr. Brett Laggan and Dr. Warren Thiry.



Dr. Brett Laggan,  
Pensacola

### Okaloosa-Walton Dental Association

The Okaloosa-Walton Dental Association has planned a Give Kids a Smile event on Friday, February 4 from 7:45 am-5:00 pm at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville. Upcoming membership meetings include Thursday, February 17 (Sleep Apnea I), Thursday, March 17 (a combined meeting with Eglin Air Force Base) and Thursday, April 21 (Sleep Apnea II). All meetings will be held at Pandora's Restaurant on Okaloosa Island. In October 2010, the office of Dr. Jean Woo and Dr. Byron Wade with the VA Clinic, Eglin Air Force Base, participated in the Okaloosa County Homeless Veteran's Stand Down. This event is unique in that community organizations gather to remove obstacles that may impede the homeless vet from receiving help. Dr. Woo and Dr. Wade provided screening exams and definitive care at a later date in their offices. New members in the Okaloosa-Walton Dental Association are Dr. Danielle Grimes, Dr. Michael Grimes, Dr. Kelly Seebaldt, Dr. Phillip Simon and Dr. Frederico Tepedino.



Dr. Danielle Grimes and Dr. Michael Grimes, Fort  
Walton Beach; Dr. Frederico Tepedino, Destin (l-r)

### Leon County Dental Association

The Leon County Dental Association coordinates Give Kids a Smile with the local We Care program, that coordinates patient care between the Capital Medical Society volunteers and the LCDA

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## 2011 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

Legislation Session holds promise for FDA bills

The 2011 Legislative Session opens on March 8, but committee and council meetings have already begun. With the inauguration of new governor Rick Scott and the four executive orders he signed on inauguration day, change has also begun in Tallahassee. Executive Order No. 11-01 affects dentistry as it freezes all new regulations and establishes the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform, which will review all rules prior to promulgation, including those suspended by the Order, and review agency practices and contracts. The order also immediately suspends rulemaking for all agencies under the direction of the Governor; imposes 90-day suspension on execution of any contracts with a value in excess of \$1 million, without prior approval from the Office; and prohibits agencies from promulgating rules unless they obtain prior approval from the Office.

The FDA legislative agenda includes passage of the following bills: non-covered services, dental workforce survey/healthcare clinic permit fix/Florida Healthy Kids Board addition and FDA/FDHA joint legislation. The process of passing the non-covered services

and dental workforce survey/healthcare clinic permit fix/Florida Healthy Kids Board bills was begun last year and is anticipated to be successful this Session. The FDA will need you to contact your legislators again this year at the appropriate time; please take action when you are asked.

Dentists' Day on the Hill is Wednesday, March 30, so make plans to attend now. NWDDA members are the closest to Tallahassee and usually have the largest attendance, despite having the smallest number of members of any district. Register online for Dentists' Day on the Hill at [jwsrgn@aol.com](mailto:jwsrgn@aol.com).

Senator Don Gaetz, R-Ft. Walton Beach, has asked the Northwest District to hold a fundraising event for his re-election campaign. FLADPAC and NWDDA representatives will be contacting you soon for your contribution. Senator Gaetz is a great friend to dentistry, specifically to the dentists of Northwest Florida. He also is in line to be Senate President in his next term. Please show your support for Senator Gaetz and write that check when you get the call or email.

# SAVE THE DATE: 2011 NWDDA ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, August 12  
 Saturday, August 13  
 Bay Point Marriott  
 Golf Resort & Spa  
 Panama City Beach

Join your friends and colleagues at the 2011 NWDDA Annual Meeting. This year promises a meeting to remember, featuring CE that will help your practice grow. Dr. Bruce Edelstein will teach the dental team about using digital photography to orchestrate cases, and help determine when and how to go beyond soft tissue management. Dr. Frank Serio will explore the link between oral and whole body health. Staff favorite Dr. Debra Stewart will lead superior auxiliary workshops, focusing on alginate impressions, retraction cord placement, in-house denture and partial repairs and bleaching techniques (dental potpourri workshop) as well as temporary crowns and bridges, shade verification, how to composite mock ups and porcelain polish without reglaze (temporary crown & bridge workshop). She will deliver a relevant lecture on marketing within the office, as well as hygiene pearls and tidbits that serve as a prerequisite for the workshops the following day. **Space is limited** in Dr. Stewart's workshops, so hurry and take advantage of a special **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** opportunity, exclusive to Dr. Stewart's courses — see the **green** box below! Full course descriptions are available at [www.nwdda.org](http://www.nwdda.org).

Despite a "presidential visit," the 2010 NWDDA Annual Meeting was a great success. Attendees supported your association while obtaining meaningful and affordable continuing education. NWDDA President Dr. Jean Woo organized the District's first local fundraiser for the Florida Dental Health Foundation through a silent auction and raffle, raising \$3,000. State Representative Jimmy Patronis, R-Panama City was honored at the Membership Luncheon for outstanding service to Florida dentists.



NWDDA members and staff enthusiastically supported NWDDA President Dr. Jean Woo's silent auction fundraiser for FDHF



Dr. Jolene Paramore (l) and Legislator of the Year, Representative Jimmy Patronis (r)

## FRIDAY

Beyond Soft Tissue Management  
 Dr. Bruce Edelstein, AM course

The Art of Digital Photography  
 Dr. Bruce Edelstein, PM course

Pearls & Tidbits for the Dental Team:  
 Work Smarter Not Harder  
 Dr. Debra Stewart, full day course

## SATURDAY

The Oral Health-Whole Body Connection  
 Dr. Frank Serio, full day course

Dental Potpourri: Dental Team Essentials  
 Dr. Debra Stewart, AM workshop

Temporary Crowns & Bridges Made Easy  
 Dr. Debra Stewart, PM workshop

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# THE LICENSURE EXAM DEBATE

The Florida Dental Licensure Exam has been the subject of building debate and concern over the last three years. Currently, the Northeast Regional Board (NERB) administers the Florida exam. NERB issued an opinion that the Florida exam was equivalent to the NERB exam. Several states issued licenses to around 200 dentists based on that opinion. The opinion was subsequently reversed and a lawsuit was filed in Illinois. In this case, the judge ruled that the Illinois Board of Dentistry must issue a license in Illinois based on the dentist taking the Florida exam.

Another concern is the current governor wants to get out of the examination business and outsource testing as much as possible. Additionally, maintaining the task analysis needed to prove the validity of the exam and the equipment needed to scan candidates' preparations is costly. This may be used as a rationale for privatizing the exam.

At their December 4, 2010 meeting, the Florida Board of Dentistry voted 9-2 to join the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) and accept the ADLEX exam, as it is almost identical to the current Florida exam. Dr. Thad Morgan, chair of the Florida Board of Dentistry, was the featured speaker on a conference call held January 6, 2011 for all members of the

House of Delegates and Board of Trustees. Dr. Morgan discussed the internal and external threats facing the exam. In his opinion, the Florida exam has another two years, but it is important to get another exam lined up before then. He stated there are four choices: join ADEX and accept the ADLEX exam with restrictive requirements, accept regional examination(s), have licensure by portfolio, or do nothing. There is great risk in doing nothing, however, as the Board of Dentistry chances losing control of the exam process. In states that have lost their independent exams, there has been a period of two to three years of chaos while a new examination process is put in place. Dr Morgan was asked numerous questions about the exam, ADEX, and risks/benefits of being proactive.

On January 22, 2011, the FDA House of Delegates approved a resolution to work with the Board of Dentistry to ensure that Florida has a strong clinical exam protected by the Florida Statutes. Once the exams are deemed by the Board of Dentistry to be identical, legislative changes will be needed to achieve this goal. The process has been started and will likely progress over the next 18-24 months, so that the citizens of Florida will have dentists deemed clinically competent by a valid and reliable testing mechanism.

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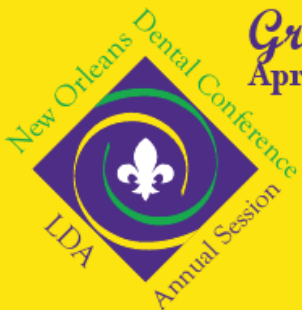
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| - Dr. Greg Psaltis                                 | - Dr. Robert Westerman               | - Dr. Lou Graham          |
| - Dr. Karl Koerner*                                | - Molly Kimball, R.D.,<br>C.S.S.D. ♣ | - Dr. Frank Lauciello ♣   |
| - Dr. Henry Gremillion                             | Dr. Ross Nash*                       | - Dr. Todd Babineaux ♣    |
| - Dr. Linda Niessen,<br>M.P.H.*                    | - Dr. Debra Stewart                  | - Tracey Jacobs ♣         |
| - Dr. Patricia Blanton* ♣                          | - Dr. Marvin Fier* ♣                 | - Dr. Dana Qeblawi ♣      |
| - Dr. Nate Booth                                   | - Carol Tekavec, C.D.A.,<br>R.D.H.*  | - John White ♣            |
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| - Timothy Caruso, P.T.                             |                                      | - Dr. Chris Owens ♣       |
|  |                                      | - John Gin ♣              |

♣ Note: a fleur de lis denotes that speaker is new to the 2011 NODC/LDA Annual Session.

\* Note: an asterisk denotes that speaker was named a 2011 leader in C.E. by "Dentistry Today."

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The online curricula of the Institute provides information on anti-trust, parliamentary procedure, meeting planning and political action committees. To become a graduate of the Institute, candidates are tasked with completing online curricula as well as undertaking a pre-approved project and submitting a project summary to the committee. Qualifying projects must be relevant to organized dentistry, and may be chosen from a finite list developed by the committee. Finally, successful graduates will have attended the leadership conference. Those who attended the 2010 conference on November 13 in Tampa have already completed this requirement.



FDA President Dr. Larry Nissen (l) and Leadership Institute Graduate Dr. Susan Byrne (r)



Leadership Institute Graduate Dr. Reese Harrison (l) and Dr. Victor Apel, Chairman, Florida Leadership Development Committee (r)

Leon County Dental Society Vice President Dr. Susan Byrne and NWDDA Council on Financial Affairs representative Dr. Reese Harrison both completed the inaugural class of the Leadership Institute. Dr. Harrison states, "My involvement serving dentistry as a part of the Leadership Institute was rewarding. One component I found particularly enjoyable through this program was the requirement of a project that would encourage bridge-building among the dental community and those it serves. I personally used the assignment to put together a fundraising event for a Panama City native seeking candidacy in the US House of Representatives for District Two. The hosting group included business leaders in our community as well as business professionals. Dr. Daniel Melzer, among others, helped tremendously in allowing this fundraiser to be a huge success for candidate Steve Southerland in raising over \$25,000 and providing an opportunity for him to address local business leaders on current issues related to our area."

Anyone interested in applying for Leadership Institute membership should contact FDA COO Rusty Payton at 800.877.9922 or rpayton@floridadental.org.

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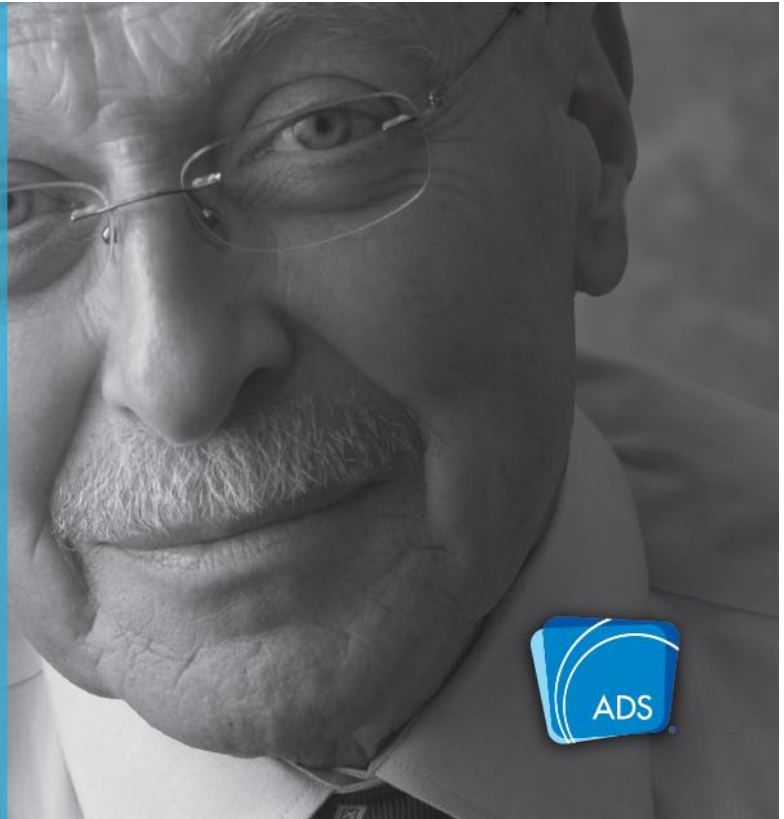
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