The NWDDA rocketed to the Grand Sandestin for our annual meeting February 20-22. A super cluster of stellar CE and a galaxy of special extras, made a big bang with our members, their staff, and our exhibitors. We had an out-of-this-world experience which boosted us into the new biennium and allowed us to bond with our favorite humans. Many attendees remarked that this was “the best NW meeting ever!” Check out photos of the astronauts, rocket scientists, and space junkies who blasted off on this adventure. MUCH congratulations goes to Dr. Jeff Ottley, Milton, for being awarded the 2014 Outstanding Service Award. A very special thank you to our NWDDA Annual Meeting sponsors: Gold Sponsor Heartland Dental; Speaker Sponsors Brasseler and Kisco; and Bronze Sponsors 3M ESPE, ADS Florida, Atlanta Dental Supply, Benco, Dentsply, Dexis Dental, Essential Dental Systems, FDA Services, Henry Schein, Patterson, Philips Sonicare, Procter & Gamble, Sand Oak Financial Partners, Specialty Appliances Orthodontic Lab, Straumann, Summit Bank, and Surgitek.
Fellow NWDDA Members,

Legislative Session is upon us. It is important that we all take an active look at legislation that can impact how we practice dentistry and provide for our patients, and then work together in our commitment to help push FDA’s legislative agenda forward during Session. In a nutshell, the FDA supports bills pertaining to the prohibition of unfair charges for non-covered services, sovereign immunity for dentists, keeping Medicaid dental funds separate, the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program, a public records exemption as it pertains to the Dental Workforce Survey, maintaining the Adult Dental Medicaid Program, increasing Medicaid dental provider reimbursement fees, and maintaining educational standards for internationally-trained dentists. On the other hand, the FDA opposes allowing separate Medicaid provider numbers for dental hygienists, and must continue to monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Perhaps one of the most effective things you can do is participate in Dentists’ Day on the Hill, Wednesday, April 2 in Tallahassee. Information regarding this vital tool in reaching out to legislators and making our voices heard can be found in the ad directly below this column. Please make the time to join us during this crucial chance to make a difference together.

Regards, Kim

NWDDA President
Dr. Kim Jernigan

FLADPAC supports the political campaigns of pro-dental candidates. Becoming a Century Club Member provides FDA members an opportunity to contribute at least $150 or more over your basic dues. You may join Century Club by selecting that option on your FDA annual dues statement or calling the FDA Member Relations Department at 800.877.9922. Century Club is invaluable and provides additional resources to FLADPAC. Become a member today!
NWDDA members, staff, families, meeting exhibitors, and special guests enjoyed fun during the 2014 Annual Meeting at Hammerhead’s Bar & Grille in Baytowne Village. As you can tell, a GREAT time was had by all.

PHOTOS: 1 - Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Hinton cut a rug to local band Jason & Michael; 2 - Annual Meeting Program Chair/NWDDA Vice President Dr. Mike Mihalick chats with other Friday Night Fun-goers; 3 - FDA Service representative Joe Dukes and FDA COO Rusty Peyton talk about their day while RNDC Chair Dr. Bert Hughes (Gainesville) and FDA President Dr. Terry Buckenheimer unwind in the background; 4 - The beautiful NW Florida sunset; 5 - Dr. Anissa Ottley’s staff parties Mardi Gras style with band singer Jason Grandy and Dr. and Mrs. Hinton; 6 - Dr. Jay & Mrs. Susan Walton, Dr. Bob Payne, Mrs. Karen & Dr. Terry Buckenheimer, NWDDA ED Angel Estep, Rusty Peyton, Dr. Gary Hall, Dr. Mike Mihalick, Mrs. Laura and Dr. Scott Heitzmann, Dr. George Dorris, Dr. Jolene Paramore, Dr. Bert Hughes, Dr. Kim Jernigan, Dr. Jeff Ottley, Dr. Anissa Ottley (clockwise from bottom left)
Awards Luncheon
Saturday, June 14 • 11:30 AM-1 PM
Gaylord Palms

Plan to attend this very special celebration luncheon that will recognize and honor our FDA President, Dr. Terry Buckenheimer, as well as the 2014 award recipients, including FDA Dentist of the Year!

Tickets are $35 per person or purchase a table of 10 for $300 — available on your FNDC2014 registration form.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Dr. Terry I. Buckenheimer

DENTIST OF THE YEAR
Dr. Paul Miller

J. LEON SCHWARTZ
LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD
Dr. James Walton III

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS
Dr. Nolan W. Allen
Dr. Leo Callinan
Ms. Stefanie Dedmon
Dr. Cesar R. Sabates

LEADERSHIP AWARDS
Dr. David Boudin
Dr. Sudhanshu "Sam" Desai
Dr. Jelene O. Paramore
Dr. Richard A. Stevenson

AAOMS ROBERT V. WALKER
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Larry W. Nissen

SERVICE AWARDS
Dr. Gerald W. Bird
Dr. Bertram Hughes
Dr. Richard A. Huot
Dr. Johnny Johnson Jr.
Dr. Richard Mullens

ADA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Robert T. Ferris

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The Semi-Annual House of Delegates met January 24-25 in Tampa to address the business of the FDA. ADA President Dr. Chuck Norman served as special guest, delivering a meaningful message on the “Power of Three — the Tripartite.” ADA Practice Institute staff Krishna Vamudhan, Senior Manager, Office of Quality Assessment and Improvement and Dr. Dave Preble, Vice President, updated the House on the current status of the Dental Quality Assurance (DQA). Information was educational, as there is much confusion over the goals and motives of those participants in the DQA.

The FDA House of Delegates voted to: approve the removal of dental hygiene and allied team members from the bylaws; establish a standing executive director review committee; move the membership cancellation date to March 31; amend the bylaws to prohibit trustees, alternate trustees, and line officers from serving on all Councils with the exception of the Council on Financial Affairs; amend the bylaws to create a BOT committee to perform future executive director searches, adopt a new policy on encounter fees in public health settings, change the terms of the Speaker of the House and Editor from one to two years; adopt the ADA delegation manual; include a budget line item for contract lobbyists; and require the BOT to record individual votes for exhibits referred to the House. The HOD defeated a resolution to change the selection process for the ADA delegation members.

The Northwest District Dental Association was well served by its delegation, and special thanks go to Dr. Steve Bryan, Chair; Dr. Nathan Hall, Dr. Eddie Martin, Dr. Mike Mihalckik, Dr. Jeff Ottley, Dr. Bob Payne, and Dr. David Russell, Delegates; Dr. Jolene Paramore, trustee; and Mrs. Angel Estep, NWDDA Executive Director.
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