“If You Can’t Bite You Can’t Fight”

During the Alaska Dental Society (ADS) Annual Session American Dental Association (ADA) President-elect Dr. Gary Roberts and ADA 11th District Trustee Dr. Rick Asai slipped out of the meeting during the Friday lunch break to visit the dentists at the 673d Dental Squadron on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Hosted by the Dr. David Wells, 673rd Clinic Commander, the event was an opportunity for the ADA to visit the dentists that keep our military members fit for world-wide duty. During the brief formal presentation Dr. Roberts highlighted the ADA accomplishments on the behalf of the military, such as retention of the rank of Major General for chief dental officers. Dr. Asai touched on direct membership to the ADA for federal service members while encouraging them to be involved at the state and component level. Dr. Julie Robinson, Chief of Dental Services, 176th Medical Group, Alaska Air National Guard, invited members to participate in the April Alaska Mission of Mercy and Dr. Evan Young, President-elect Alaska Dental Society, invited them to attend the ADS Annual Session classes and luncheon on Saturday. Col James Arenson of Kodiak was present to represent the Army National Guard. Dr. Wells, the clinic commander and only Oral Pathologist in the State of Alaska, spoke on the value of organized dentistry before exchanging coins with the delegation. Lunch and informal small group discussions ensued until the dentists returned to patient care and the delegation returned to the ADS meeting. The caliber and expertise of the military dentists was impressive and the Anchorage Dental Society has wisely begun to tap that knowledge for continuing education classes in Anchorage.

Lt Col Julie M. Robinson, Chief of Dental Services, 176 MDG, AKANG
From the Editor

This time, the March issue of the ADS Newsletter is being sent out to all of the dental licensees in the state, not just members. At least all of the dentists we have email addresses for. Usually, the editor attempts to write some sort of witty commentary on the current state of affairs, a personal interview of a member or some random topic loosely tied to dentistry. However, this time you will find that I have asked for some levity from one of our Fairbanks dentists who, at our annual meeting, helped orchestrate one of the more memorable President’s dinner events since Dr. Dan Pitts from Soldotna and I “Gatoried” (wiggled around on the floor to Gloria by Van Morrison) for ADPAC in 1995. Included is an inspirational message from our shirtless President from Wasilla!

Also, Lt. Colonel Robinson describes an outreach visit to our dentist friends at JBER. Additionally, this newsletter is the only place you can learn a bit about what the Alaska State Board talks about at their most recent meetings. The Board does not turn out a newsletter for everyone other than posting past minutes on their website. In this issue, you will also find a spotlight on member benefits, a “Did You Know” tidbit, what is happening on the legislative front, news about upcoming local dental events and meetings and updates on exciting community volunteer opportunities like AKMOM, Dental Lifeline and Project Access. Anyone who tells you there is not much going on at the Alaska Dental Society is just not paying attention.

Thanks!

ALASKA DENTAL SOCIETY
MEMBER BENEFITS

Alaska Dental Society members enjoy ADA and ADS member benefits. 2 of the benefits are highlighted below; contact the ADS office or visit the ADS website or the ADA website to see the full range of member benefits.

**ADS Benefit**
**AKMOM CE credit**

Volunteers at the AKMOM receive 2 CE credits towards their 2 year CE requirement. Dentists need 32 hours per 2 year period, hygienists 20 hours per 2 year period.

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The expertise of a radiation oncologist, medical physicist, and a neurosurgeon are combined to achieve safe and effective treatment. Because radiosurgery is the least invasive procedure for trigeminal neuralgia, it is a good treatment option for patients with co-morbidities, high-risk medical illness, or pain refractory to prior surgical procedures.

Anchorage Radiation Therapy is the only medical center in the state of Alaska to offer the Gamma Knife procedure, the gold standard in brain stereotactic radiosurgery. We are happy to offer this treatment option for your patients diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia.

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Gamma Knife® treatment for trigeminal neuralgia is the least invasive surgical option. In fact, it is technically not surgery at all. The Gamma Knife is a device that delivers precise, controlled beams of radiation to targets inside the skull, including the brain and associated nerves. This disrupts the transmission of pain signals to the brain. For trigeminal neuralgia treatment, the radiation beams are aimed at the trigeminal nerve where it enters the brainstem. This procedure provides significant pain control or reduction in approximately 80+% of patients.

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The expertise of a radiation oncologist, medical physicist, and a neurosurgeon are combined to achieve safe and effective treatment. Because radiosurgery is the least invasive procedure for trigeminal neuralgia, it is a good treatment option for patients with co-morbidities, high-risk medical illness, or pain refractory to prior surgical procedures.
I want to thank everyone who contributed to the 67th Alaska Dental Society annual session which was held in Anchorage February 18-20! Every year countless hours of staff and volunteer time goes into planning the annual meeting and this one was truly exceptional. We were honored to have our ADA President-Elect, Dr. Gary Roberts in attendance along with 11th District ADA Trustee, Dr. Rick Asai. Dental Society presidents from Washington, Oregon and Idaho also came up for the weekend. The CE speakers were top notch and as always the vendors in the exhibit hall showcased the latest and greatest in dentistry. Throughout the weekend, there were several events which helped to raise funds for the upcoming Mission of Mercy event (April 29-30). Most of all I want to thank those of you who attended, for without your support it would not be possible to make these happen annually. I hope it exceeded your expectations and that you had a chance to connect with friends and colleagues. Planning is already well underway for the May 2017 annual meeting which will be in Kodiak. If you were not able to join us this year, mark your calendars as you surely won’t want to miss out next year!

This issue of the Alaska Update will be distributed to all dentists in our state, member or non-member. If you are a non-member, I urge you to take some time to read this issue so you know what the ADS has been doing on your behalf. Since 1949 the Alaska Dental Society has been the leading voice for all things dental related in Alaska. As a member you show that you hold yourself to the highest standards of care and are committed to “enhancing the dental profession and the health of all Alaskans.” With your ADS/ADA membership, you can join over 158,000 other dentists across the USA who understand the value and need for organized dentistry. Since 1859 the ADA has been the world’s leading authority on dentistry. It has advocated on behalf of every dentist and patient and helped make dentistry the #1 profession in the world.

Take a moment to think about what exactly it is that you enjoy most about practicing dentistry. Is it the relationship you have with your patients and striving to provide the best care possible for them while making a comfortable living? Or is it having the flexibility to choose which practice model and location that best suits your needs? Do you thrive on cutting edge research, technology and materials that help improve our quality of care? Whatever it is that sustains your passion for our profession, and whether you practice in a large group, as a solo practitioner, or in the Federal Services consider how different dentistry today would be without the ADA.

Long ago our profession would have been relegated to just another trade, beholden to the decisions of non-dentists where it not for the advocacy of the ADA over the last 157 years. Much of the research and development that brought forth advances in materials and technology that we now enjoy today likely would not have taken place. Dentists would not be the leaders in the dental team, and perhaps would not even have a voice in dictating the direction of our profession. It is likely that without organized dentistry whatever it is that first called you to become a dentist would not have been there and as such you would not be sitting here reading this today.

Tomorrow morning I will be going to Juneau to meet with some of our state lawmakers. Although there are many large issues they have to deal with this legislative session, I will do my best to advocate on your behalf. I will share the message of the ADS with them so that they know we strive to provide the best care for our patients and want keep our profession strong in Alaska and nationally. If you are a nonmember reading this I have just one question. How do you feel about reaping the benefits procured through the hard work and membership dues of others? In all reality this is what is happening, the staff and volunteer leaders at the ADA/ADS are doing work for you every day simply because of our common profession. If this makes you feel the least bit guilty, all you need to do is call the ADS office and become a member then I assure you all will be well with you soul!

Consider just a few exclusive benefits of ADA/ADS membership such as low interest student loan refinancing (which can save up to $30,000), discounts on ADA products, savings on hotels and car rentals as well as many others and it is very apparent that the value of membership greatly outweighs its actual cost. More importantly, if you believe that we have the best profession in the world and want to keep it that way for future generations of dentists, then we need you to join us today! With you, the ADA will be 158,000 + 1 members strong, and whatever it is that you enjoy most about being a dentist will also be there for your children and grandchildren. The only way to assure this is to act according to what we believe and become a member. Agere Sequitur Credere – Action Follows Belief.
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Raising money for AKMOM is a never-ending and sometimes thankless job. One of the most difficult procedures in life is separating money from wallets - just ask Julie Robinson and David Nielson. At the ADS annual session, the procedure becomes much more difficult as it involves separating money from DENTISTS’ wallets. When David Logan “volun-told” me to attempt that very procedure via a wine auction at the President’s Dinner, I was less than thrilled. That’s when it is a good thing to have some specialists on hand. To get things rolling, I used the technique called “the shell referral”. Dr. Dan Pitts had agreed to buy the first bottle of wine for a sizeable amount, thus setting the tone of peer pressure amongst the bidders. We rode the success of this for several bottles until enthusiasm began to wane. We had to switch to “the referral + gift” technique. We have all sent a case to a specialist with a grimace on our face, and when our referral is accepted we feel the need to thank our understanding colleague with a gift. At the wine auction, this is known as buy one get one free. The result was the encouragement of our more savvy (stingy) bidders engaging in the fundraising. However, by the time it came to bottle number nine, I had to pull the big guns out - literally. Not since Mark Prator has our ADS President possessed such massive arms - and the ladies at the auction were drooling at the chance to have our scantily clad, Chippendale-like President pour them a glass of sweet fermented grapes! Alas it was my own mother who cast the winning bid, and we all watched as dollars filled the AKMOM account as rapidly as Jesse could pour chardonnay into Kathy Woller’s mouth! The tenth and final bottle became the classic “throw your specialist under the bus and look away” referral. I was at my wit’s end to top the previous bid, so David Logan became the sacrificial lamb, “offering” to match the winning bid with a cash donation of his own. Hahahaha. This drove the price up nicely, but just as in real life when this technique is used, it came back to bite me - as Dr. Logan pronounced that he would be happy to donate as long as I matched it as well! When the night was over, the impromptu wine auction raised about $2500 for the AKMOM, proving once again that the ADS has some of the most generous and handsome dentists in the country!
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Annual Meeting

We just completed our annual meeting along with the associated meetings. Over 150 people attended the meeting this year and made the meeting a success. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Novy, got wonderful reviews and will be back again at a future meeting.

The executive council met the day before the Annual Meeting started. The strategic plan was reviewed and updated, and plans set to realize the goals over the next 2 years. The ADS fiscal policies were reviewed, a draft budget was developed and by the time several presentations were accomplished we had met from 9-5. And were glad to head for the Welcoming Reception.

Friday night brought the President’s Dinner at the top of the Sheraton. We had a great dinner and before the dinner began had a wine auction to raise money for the AKMOM.

The Saturday luncheon is the Annual Membership meeting for the ADS and featured presentations from Dr. Gary Roberts, the ADA President-elect, and Dr. Rick Asai, the ADA 11th district trustee. Your 2017 officers are: President Dr. Evan Young Anchorage, President-elect Dr. Melissa Webster Fairbanks, the newly combined Secretary/Treasurer position Dr. David Albertson Ketchikan, ADA Delegates Dr. Heather Willis Fairbanks and Dr. Julie Robinson Anchorage, and ADS Newsletter Editor Dr. David Nielson Anchorage.

The conclusion of the meeting brought the start of the 1st ADS barhop/scavenger hunt followed by a dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. It was a great way to end the meeting and a chance to catch up with friends.

We had other events to benefit the AKMOM during the meeting: an AK Air raffle that Dave Nielson and Chris Willis spearheaded and a silent action that Debbie Prece spent about 250 hours organizing. Many thanks to all who helped with all of the MOM fundraising events.

In March we will be doing outreach to nonmembers and 2015 members who have not rejoined yet. The reasons for deciding to be a member of the ADS vary but usually include wanting to be a part of organized dentistry, comradery, advocacy and access to ADA/ADS benefits. If you know another dentist who has not joined take a couple of minutes and encourage them to join. We all benefit from increased membership numbers: a more inclusive forum, better advocacy and lower dues. As I close in on 30 years of membership and look back I realize I never really gave it a lot of thought. I joined as part of my professional obligation and feel as dentistry has given so much to me I feel proud to have given a little something back.

Keynote speaker Dr. Brian Novy surrounded by his adoring Loma Linda graduates. Left to Right: Dr. Justin Libby-Anchorage, Dr. Jared Lee-Juneau, Dr. Jared Adams-Wasilla.

If you know another dentist who has not joined take a couple of minutes and encourage them to join. We all benefit from increased membership numbers: a more inclusive forum, better advocacy and lower dues.
You are a dentist deserving of an insurance company relentless in its pursuit to keep you protected. At least that’s how we see it at The Dentists Insurance Company, TDIC. Take our Risk Management program. Be it seminars, online resources or our Advice Line, we’re in your corner every day. With TDIC, you are not a sales goal or a statistic. You are a dentist.

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On Friday February 26, the Alaska State Board of Dental Examiners held a quarterly meeting in Anchorage. This article will describe some of the proceedings and topics that were covered in that meeting.

- Once again, there was discussion about the best way to deal with licensees having documentable American Dental Association code of ethics violations that do not necessarily correlate with a specific statute or regulation violation. When the ADA code of ethics offers what is called an “advisory opinion” about a particular issue like forgiveness of co-pays or charging uninsured patients less for a procedure than insured patients, our practice act often does not cover it specifically. So, the bottom line seems to be that the board may be in some cases limited to writing similar advisory opinion letters to licensees that are found to be in violation of the code. We still need to determine if this type of letter must go through the proper legal channels before they are sent out. But, the board generally agreed advisory letters would be a good idea when warranted and will hopefully proceed with sending them out.

- Development of the new sedation regulations has spawned some related discussions. Specifically, after reading some of the sensational media stories about deaths in dentistry like, “Junior’s Story – Drugged to Death in a Dallas Dental Chair” in the Dallas Morning News, it seemed time to have a reality check as to how prepared and able our Dental Board is to help prevent something terrible from happening in our state. In dental offices across the country, multiple levels of sedation dentistry are becoming more and more common place, and Alaska is no different. Simple statistics will tell you, the more often sedation dentistry is practiced in Alaska, the higher the chances something devastating will happen. If it does, the ramifications could broadly affect how all patient sedation is done in the dental office. I do not believe the Dental Board is under some delusion that stricter sedation regulations will absolutely prevent a tragedy. But if there is a death, and afterwards the Dental Board discovers there were unreported or unknown incidents and warning signs about a licensee that we should have had access to or known about, we may forever wonder if we could have prevented it. Personally, such a feeling would be very hard to reconcile. Currently, our regulations are marginal at best about mandatory reporting. All licensees must report a death in the office within 48 hours, but nothing is mentioned about reporting a visit to the emergency room (ER) or a hospital admission due to complications from oral sedation, local anesthetic overdose, or even deep or general anesthesia! The only time a licensee is required to file a report of a hospital admission is if there are complications during or immediately after parenteral sedation (IV, IM or sublingual). Even so, whether or not a licensee even follows through with filling a report is never confirmed or tracked, because the hospital likely has not been asked or is lacking the mechanism to send such admission reports. The Board hopes to address this issue two ways. First, new regulations would mandate reporting of any complications that require a visit to the ER or hospital admission within 48 hours. Second, the board intends to investigate if it is possible to get all hospitals and ER’s to report any admission of a dental patient experiencing complications during or immediately after treatment. This data should be stored, be accessible and available from any state a licensee has practiced in. Reports that are deemed to be red flags would be followed up on to see what happened. Getting the reporting data base up and running may take some time, but the requirement for filing reports with the board will likely be in the new regulations very soon once adopted. We are also investigating the feasibility of acquiring any new National Practitioner Data Bank entries for every licensee, every year no matter what. Oregon does this now for a cost of $3 per licensee per year.

- Speaking of the new sedation regulations, they were discussed for over two hours during the meeting as we had about seven dentist show up for public comment and input. Included in the mix were three general dentists, two dental anesthesiologists, and a pedodontist. I will not go into the details of the lengthy discussion
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here, but the focus seemed to be around both initial training and continued competency training for permit renewal. Specifically, it was felt advanced hands on airway management training was critical to safely manage an emergency. And, for those sedating patients 12 years old and younger, actual pediatric airway management training would be required. There was also some discussion which centered on how to regulate an anesthesia provider who sedates patients in the dental office and are not covered under our practice act. A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) would be an example. It was suggested the board ask the attorney general if we can legally require a CRNA to carry the same permits we require dental licensees to have if they are to be sedating dental patients in dental offices. The new draft regulations will go to the state regulations specialist then out for one more round of written public comment before they are voted on by the board. Be on the lookout for them.

• A question was raised regarding what seems to be a common practice in many dental offices around the state. The question was essentially this. Is it legal according to statute, to have a hygienist do an assessment, take x-rays and clean a new patients teeth before the dentist ever has the opportunity to even examine the new patient? The discussion about this did not last very long because the consensus was a very quick “NO”. According to Sec. 08.32.110 (a)(1)(A), ....A person licensed to practice the profession of dental hygiene in the state may, under the general supervision of a licensed dentists, perform preliminary charting and triage to formulate a hygiene assessment and hygiene treatment plan. The crux of the problem is in the definition of “general supervision”. It means the dentist has authorized the procedures and they are being carried out in accordance with the dentist’s diagnosis and treatment plan. How can the dentist diagnose and treatment plan a patient who they have not seen? Furthermore, according to the scope of practice of dental hygienists Sec. 08.32.110. (c)(1), this section does not authorize the delegation of dental diagnosis. Which prescribing x-rays and deciding what type of cleaning a new patient needs is. This would apply to new patients only as existing patients have already had their diagnosis and treatment plan. Federal and tribal clinics are not covered under this chapter, so this would not apply it their case.

• There was discussion about why the Alaska Dental Board accepts results from only one regional testing exam, which is currently the Western Region Exam (WREB). A member from the American Dental Associations Council on Dental Practice and Licensure (CDEL) approached me several days ago to ask that very question. While on the surface it seems as though many of the regional exams are similar and provide similar results, there are often differences in the quality of each exam psychometrically, how they are calibrated and other factors. After some discussion, no motions were made to look into other exams at this point as the WREB exam seems to be working just fine and there are other paths to licensure that provide freedom of movement. For example, licensure by credentials, or by completing a two or more year approved postgraduate training program in lieu of the WREB.

The minutes of previous meetings are available on line once approved, but this narrative may help elaborate a bit on what was discussed at the most current meeting. Actual cases under investigation cannot be discussed until after they have been completed.
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The current senior class is looking for people who qualify as patients for the upcoming Western Regional Licensing Exam (WREB). Contact Rena below to see what the qualifications are. Please partner with us and refer your patients to provide the challenges our students need for their success at the University of Alaska Dental Hygiene Program. If you have any questions, please contact Rena Queja, Dental Clinic Office Manager, at (907)786-0303 or our direct appointment line is (907)786-6960. Thank you in advance for your support!

ALASKA DENTAL SOCIETY

Your Dental License Mailing Address is Public Record

If you use something other than your office address for the mailing address for your dental license have you ever wondered why your mailbox is full of dental catalogs?

All professional license information, including mailing addresses, is available on a downloadable database on the state of Alaska website. We can’t even blame this one on Professional Licensing; the Legislature has mandated this be public information. The extra catalogs are an annoyance but of a greater concern is having your home address in the public forum. A truly dedicated criminal could search it out in the tax assessor’s database but home burglars generally aren’t Mensa candidates.

The easy solution is to change your license information to match your office address which is only a google search away. For dentists without a fixed office address a mail drop or Post office box may be a consideration.
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Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer.

Current Volunteer Opportunities in Your Community: Brought to you by your Alaska Dental Society Access Committee. Show the entire state what organized dentists can do to help those in need!

Anchorage Project Access Dental Partnership (APADP) is almost ready to roll out and accept the first dental referrals. Currently 15 dentists have filled out and returned the required paperwork to start treating patients that have been referred from the Providence Emergency Room through APADP. If you are one of the dentists that have agreed to see APADP patients and have not completed your paperwork packet, please recognize that we “CHEER” when another packet is received so please fax it into Jane Dial at Project Access. If you have turned in your paperwork...THANK YOU! And, standby as it may take a little while for the first patients to work through their community service obligations prior to treatment. The more dentists who can participate, the more patients we can keep out of the emergency room where their dental problems cannot be addressed, and the fewer patients each dentist needs to see to make the project wildly successful. More information can be found on the ADS website at: Anchorage Project Access. The beauty of this program is that after the initial dental emergency is addressed by a volunteer dentist, the remaining basic dental treatment is rendered on a pay-it-forward model. The Access Committee agreed that this is a more sustainable and consistent model to address the emergent needs of the underserved in the Anchorage area than the large two-day Alaska Mission of Mercy (AKMOM).

The AKMOM events have provided a tremendous amount of dental treatment to those in need and generated an immeasurable amount of good will in the public and legislative sector, while highlighting the plight of the working-poor. But, it is extremely time consuming and requires support from a limited pool of sponsors and volunteers. Therefore, the Access Committee has put forth a suggestion that the AKMOM events be held every 2 years regardless of where they are held in the state. For example, if there are volunteer event chairs (and that is a “BIG IF”), the next AKMOM would be in Fairbank in 2018 and the following one would be in Anchorage in 2020. It is possible to have an AKMOM in any part of the state if there are willing event chairs and volunteers so Mat-Su, Southeast, Costal dentists canvas your membership and we can make it happen.

Dental Lifeline Network, formerly Donate Dental Services, needs more dentists statewide to treat the backlog of disabled, medically compromised and elderly patients that have pre-qualified. This is comprehensive dentistry, performed in the comfort of your office and the treatment plan is entirely up to you and the patient. More information is on the Alaska Dental Society website: Dental Lifeline Network.

UAA Dental Days will be held on Friday March 25th. This event is free to qualified patients that have been pre-screened. The dental hygiene and assisting students will be on hand to volunteer with you! They will be actively seeking employment this summer so this is a chance for them to meet the dentists in the community and showcase their new skills. Try to remember how exciting dentistry was when you were getting ready to graduate. For some of you, this may require time travel through a worm-hole, but you will be energized after volunteering. If you would like to volunteer contact Cindy Armstrong at: mailto:clarmstrong@uaa.alaska.edu

The Access committee would like situational awareness of all projects that provide care to underserved Alaskans so we are requesting information from those that treat patients in nursing homes or other institutions. For information and to share what you are doing in the community contact our lustrous leader, Dr. David Nielson, Chair, ADS Dental Access Committee dnielson@akdental.org
6 weeks into session and things are starting to pick up. The focus of the legislature has been on the budget, as it should be, causing the house rules to change for the first time after a committee resolution prohibiting committee hearings on all legislation except those budgetary and revenue generating bills. As a result, this put interest groups such as dentistry on the sidelines.

This was great because it gave me a chance to meet several legislators without a dental agenda. Starting from the beginning of the session with the majority party fundraiser and welcome reception, to more recently, meetings with the Juneau delegation and other legislators. Not to mention, ADS legislative dinner with Jesse Hronkin, Kris Knauss and Dave Logan representing ADS as well.

In the beginning of the session (before the freeze), a bill of interest was Representative Keller’s HB-159. This bill would potentially allow dentists to directly market dental care agreement plans to patients with no dental insurance coverage. The idea is patients would receive a discount on dental services and dentists would have a predictable pool of patients. Kris and I met with Keller’s staff and we were successful in having recommended language added to HB 159. However, this bill is on hold at the House Labor and Commerce Committee since the focus is now on budgetary bills.

One bill that is receiving a lot of attention is Senator Kelly’s SB-74, which is the Senate’s Medicaid reform bill. This bill was originally presented one year ago and has since incurred many changes. Last week, it acquired additional changes (about thirty amendments) and incorporated prescription monitoring as well. Some components of the bill related to dentistry are: employees would be incentivized to report Medicaid fraud, checking prescription database before prescribing or dispensing opioids would now be mandatory, and all Medicaid providers would have to perform a self-audit on claims, to name a few. The mood of the sponsoring Senators is to change as little as possible to pass the bill through the Senate. This week, SB-74 was made a Committee Substitute. Our strategy is to create a work group to review SB-74 and decide what we would like altered. Once all desired modifications have been determined, we will work on the House side to advocate for the changes we would like.

Of note, the House Finance HSS gave indication of the cuts to Adult Supplemental Medicaid. The first step of the budget was completed last week; however, it still needs to clear the House. Given the lack of cuts so far, we can expect more to come.

This session has been an eye opener for me. As I have mentioned, I have experience with legislative affairs on the national level but not the state level before this year. It has been great having Dave Logan as a mentor with all his years of experience and expertise. He has been making his way to Juneau to visit the capitol on his days off. Thank you for being such an overachiever, Dave! Honestly, it is an honor working with you.

For legislative updates, please visit the link on our ADS website titled ADS Politics. Also, it is not too late to support DAPAC. Please contact Mary Lee Allen for more information.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your legislative vice-chair. As always, if you have any concerns or recommendations regarding legislative affairs, please feel free to contact me at dr.jessyblanco@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Jessica Blanco, DMD
ADS Legislative Vice-Chair
The Alaska Mission of Mercy (AKMOM) will again be a high profile community event that will keep you and the community smiling long after the last patient leaves the Dena’ina Center. The Public Service Announcements are on TV and radio, and the Press Releases will start next week. At the Alaska Dental Society’s (ADS) Annual Session, I registered for the class called “Clinical Quality & Exceptional Service: How the Whole Team Works to Create a Successful Practice” by Dr. William van Dyk. He had many valuable suggestions to market a dental practice and among them was to communicate to your patients what you do outside the office. He stated that patients want and like to see their dentist (and staff) volunteering and participating in the community. He specifically cited California Dental Association Cares or CDA Cares, which is the California version of the Mission of Mercy, as an example of community involvement. Announcing on social media that your office will be closed on Friday and Saturday so you can volunteer at the AKMOM is one way to highlight your community involvement. Your patients will notice! Remember to place the “low-tech” sign in the office too. AKMOM posters are available at the ADS office. Participating as a team also affords your staff the opportunity to donate their time and expertise and energizes them more than any staff meeting or retreat.

The 2016 Alaska Mission of Mercy got a financial boost at the Alaska Dental Society’s (ADS) annual meeting at the Sheraton in Anchorage with three separate fundraising activities.

Debbie Preece, assisted by her husband Dr. Terry Preece and office staff member Robin Heim, raised just shy of $5,000 with a gift card grab and silent auction. She and her helpers did a phenomenal job rounding up donations and staging this value added event to the ADS meeting. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and applauded!

The dynamic and persuasive Alaska Airline raffle ticket sales team, Dr. David Nielson, Chris Willis and Paula Burgan raised $5,000 for the AKMOM coffers. The drawing for the winner of the two Alaska Airlines unrestricted tickets was held at the conclusion of the ADS scavenger hunt. Dr. Jessie Blanco’s daughter, Sophia, drew the winning ticket while the group gathered at the Hard Rock Café looked on with anticipation. And the winner was…Dr. Charlie Cole of Wasilla! Where will you go Charlie? Costa Rica, Disneyland or perhaps the East Coast! We expect some pictures!

Finally K & L Distributors provided fine wines that were auctioned off at the Presidents Banquet. Dr. John Woller kept the bidding lively with promises of a matching donation from Dr. Dave Logan, the ADS Executive Director, and challenges to each dining table and personal ribbing directed at individuals. Bidding was bolstered to new heights when Dr. Jesse Hronkin, ADS president from Wasilla, removed his shirt to showcase the final bottle. Profit to AKMOM: $2,500. Watching Dr. Hronkin: maybe not be priceless, but lots of fun! On April 29-30th we want to maximize the impact of the two-day AKMOM and provide dental services to as many underserved Alaskans as possible. Community volunteers are needed so spouses, family and friends are invited volunteer with you. Registration closes at midnight Monday April 18th to allow time for pre-AKMOM organization. Registration can be found on the akmom.org website: akmom.org/volunteer-info/ It will make you smile!
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GREAT OPPORTUNITY to work in one of the most beautiful places in the world – Kodiak, Alaska. Great opportunity to work in an office with a view of the boat harbor working on your appreciation. This team is coached by Leanne Carter with Richardson Coaching. This is an immediate opportunity to work one week a month and an option to merge to full time if one wishes. Fun community to live and work in. If you know of someone who would match well working in this environment email me at akjames@mail.com or call me at 907 854 2127.

G/P PRACTICE FOR SALE IN KE-NAI PENINSULA Well established general practice in same location for over 35 years. Annual collections over $900,000. Practice has all the bells and whistles including digital X-rays and cone beam. Well trained staff will assist with the transition and stay on with the practice. Practice in a beautiful building that is only 4 years old and in an excellent location with great visibility. 5 fully equipped operatories. Contact: Buck Reasor, DMD. Reasor Professional Dental Services. info@reasorprofessionaldental.com 503-680-4366.

GENERAL DENTIST seeking associate position in private practice. Five years of experience working in Alaska. Holds an active Alaskan Dental license. Please contact Ken, email: kmountainrain451@gmail.com, 907-264-1676.”

ASSOCIATE WANTED for a general practice. We are hiring a full time dentist for our expanding practice. We offer a knowledgeable environment with the opportunity for advancement. Our office is fast paced and we would like someone with the desire to learn. We are looking for someone who is responsible & passionate about dentistry. This is a wonderful employment opportunity with competitive benefits. Please contact Rachel Miner at bytdentalgroup@gmail.com for more information.

LOOKING FOR AN ASSOCIATE DENTIST IN BUSY SOUTH ANCHORAGE OFFICE! Preferably a recent graduate with future interests in purchasing a very successful dental practice from a veteran senior dentist in Anchorage. Please email resume to dfric1000@gmail.com.

GENERAL DENTIST WANTED TO WORK AT OUR ESTABLISHED PRACTICE. Vacation and sick days are offered, pay is negotiable. Part time or full time position available, wonderful staff with flexible hours. Please call Jenny at 907-376-2456 or fax Resume to 907-376-2458 or email matsuden@mtaonline.net

KENAI PENINSULA PRACTICE FOR SALE. Live where the Eagles soar and you can have your boat in the water within minutes. This lovely community provides lots of opportunity to this healthy practice. Collections are $670,000 with net at $360,000. Four Adec operatories in a recently updated 2100 Sq. Ft. office. Well trained staff has been with the practice many years. For further information contact Dave Knutzen at dave@knutzenmcvaygroup.com, 760-574-4476.

DENTIST POSITION AVAILABLE AT THE ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD. Work a weekend a month and two weeks a year serving your country by providing dental exams for the national guard members. For more information contact Dr. Julie Robinson at jm.robinson05@yahoo.com or (907) 244-4125 (cell)

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EQUIPMENT - FOR SALE / WANTED

MOM & POP IN-HOME DENTAL PRACTICE in the beautiful Cosmic Hamlet By The Sea of Homer, Alaska. This is a package deal - modest three bedroom, one and three quarter bath home with single attached garage. Home features a 12’ x 16’ greenhouse and 16-panel grid-tied solar system. Eight year old mercury-free dental practice with reputation for safe mercury removal. The Dental equipment is older and very functional. This is a perfect opportunity for a semi-retired dentist or someone looking for an economical way to start a practice in one of the most desirable living areas in Alaska. Direct inquiries to epaloose2@hotmail.com or epaloose2@gmail.com.

2010 DIGITAL PAN IN EXCELLENT SHAPE Orthophos XG 5 (upgradable to Cone Beam) Just removed from office, ready to install. 10k Kevin Easley 947-0058

FREE! AT 2000 Auto Film processor by Air Techniques (Have another for parts) 907-529-9748

SELLING YOUR PRACTICE! We want to buy! – Local dentist looking to buy practices in Anchorage. If you are hoping to sell, there is no better opportunity to do so. Sell to someone who is looking to change the world in dentistry, email us today. Email: alaskapracticesearch@gmail.com for more information. Please no brokers.

REMOTE HOME FOR SALE IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND. Boat and plane access only. Beautiful scenery in a sportsman’s paradise. See all details at http://ellamaralaska.com. For complete info, call 907 460-5960.

WANTED: used analog film panoramic x-ray unit. Call Dr. John Hughes Jr. 907-479-5544


FOR SALE! 3 DENTAL CABINETS BRAND NEW CUSTOM BUILT BEAUTIFUL DENTAL CABINETS Change of plan for our new operatory so we don’t need them anymore. Photos of the cabinets are available $10,500 OBO Email legacydental@mtaonline.net

ALASKA DENTAL SOCIETY CLASSIFIED SECTION

ADS member dentists may place, at no charge, classified ads up to 50 words each month for four consecutive months.

Non-members & commercial rate: $50 per month minimum placement charge for ads up to 50 words. Ads exceeding 50 words will be charged $1 per word up to a maximum of 150 words.

Submit ads via email to info@akdental.org. All ads are subject to approval by the ADS editorial staff.
We thank the following companies for their generous support of our 2016 annual session:

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NEW!!! ANCHORAGE AREA – G/P collecting around $750,000 annually. Highly profitable, low overhead office has 7 ops (6 equipped) and runs Eaglesoft. Seller is willing to work back.

ANCHORAGE, AK – Excellent G/P collecting around $870,000 annually. Seller is retiring and relocating. Office recently converted to Dentrix and newer equipment. Great cash flow!

KETCHIKAN, AK – Long-established G/P collecting $600K. 100% fee-for-service. 4 ops, updated about 5 years ago. Great opportunity in a wonderful community.

ANCHORAGE, AK – G/P collecting $500K annually. Excellent moderately sized practice!

ANCHORAGE, AK – Excellent practice collecting around $1 Million. Practice has emphasis on Prosthodontic procedures, but the production mix is varied. Seller is motivated!

NEW!!! ALASKA OMS PRACTICE – Well-established OMS practice collecting over $2.8 million. Beautiful, spacious, modern office and excellent staff. Seller is willing to transition.

NEW!!! KENAI PENINSULA, AK – Wonderful rural G/P collecting around $1 Million. Amazingly profitable! Digital x-rays, laser, pano and newer equipment throughout.

Highlights for 2016:
Dr. Samuel B. Low
Periodontics/Lasers
Dr. Mark Donaldson
Sedation/Pharmacology
Dr. Arthur DiMarco &
Ms. Kathy Bassett
Anesthesia
Dr. Lee Ann Brady
Esthetics
Mr. Kirk Behrendt
Practice Management
Dr. Terry Donovan
Dr. Gerard Kugel
Restorative
Dr. Robert R. Edwab
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Dr. Michael Seemann
Compilations/Materials
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Oral Cancer
Dr. David Rothman
Pediatrics
Dr. Martin Trope
Endodontics
Ms. Trisha O’Yehir
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Dr. Leon Chen
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