

Oklahoma Academy of General Dentistry

SPRING 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Legislative Updates
- Member Benefits
- Register now to Attend 2011 AGD Annual Meeting in SanDieGO!



Oklahoma AGD Annual Meeting

The Oklahoma Academy of General Dentistry Annual Business Meeting and CE was held March 11, 2011 at the Waterford in Oklahoma City. The meeting was a great success and featured a wonderful CE course covering the impact of Obstructive Sleep Apnea in our dental patient population. The CE provided insight on what we as dental practitioners can and should be doing for the treatment of OSA. Dr. Keith Thornton presented both diagnostics and the use of the TAP appliance. He also announced a new partnership he has

developed with Patterson Dental. The new partnership includes a kit sold through Patterson allowing the dentist to bring this valuable tool into their individual practice. In addition to the great CE, the OAGD held it's annual business meeting.

Outgoing OAGD President Bob Melton DDS, MAGD officially turned over the Presidency to Susan Davis DDS, FAGD.

The OAGD Board recognized Dr. Melton for his contributions and dedication to the organization as

Crystal Phillips DDS transitioned to President elect. Nominations were held and congratulations goes to Chris Tricinella DDS who was voted into the position of Vice President. Thanks goes out to Ray Broadfoot DDS, CE Chair, for all of his hard work to coordinate the meeting and making it such a success.



Dr. Bob Melton, MAGD outgoing OAGD President and Dr. Susan Davis, FAGD incoming OAGD President. Dr. Davis will serve a two year term.

Congress Approval of Mid-Level Provider Program Funds

Congress finally approved the federal budget for the rest of the 2011 fiscal year through Sept. 30, 2011. The budget includes language prohibiting funding for the alternative dental health care provider demonstration projects. These projects, “to establish training programs to train, or to employ, alternative dental health care providers in order to increase access to dental health care services in rural and other underserved areas,” were authorized under last year’s health reform law. The recently passed budget specifically states that “no funds are provided for” these demonstration projects for the remainder of the fiscal year. President Obama’s FY 2012 budget, however, proposes \$4.9 million in funding for these alternative dental provider demonstration projects.

Impact on General Dentistry: The existing dental workforce model is a proven delivery system. Federal funding for oral health programs should focus on fully implementing the prevention and public health infrastructure programs, rather than funding demonstration programs where there is no evidence supporting the economic feasibility of mid-level providers.



Oklahoma Legislative Activity

OK S 330

Relates to dental examinations for students in public school; requires parents or legal guardians of certain students to provide proof of an oral examination of the student; provides for exemption; directs the State Department of Education to develop and make available certain form; specifies content of certain form; directs school districts to submit certain annual report; permits the State Board of Education to promulgate certain rules; provides for codification; provides an effective date.

Status: Sent to Senate Committee on Education on 2/8/2011.

OK S 574

Relates to the practice of dentistry; relate to the State Dental Act; requires faculty permit holders to show certain proof; modifies list of acts by a dentist which constitute grounds for penalties by Board of Dentistry; modifies requirements of laboratory prescriptions issued by a dentist; requires Board to make certain forms readily available; permits dentists to produce, transfer and retain certain copies electronically; permits to Board to collect certain fees.

Status: Do Pass as Substituted from House Committee on Public Health on 4/13/2011.

Practice Management

Insurance Contracts

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) offers contract assistance to our members, this program is called, *The Fine Print*.

AGD experts will discuss your contract with you and identify potentially harmful clauses. For example, clauses that may require you to cover costs incurred by the insurance company, or information within the contract that may allow the insurance company to decide whether the services you render to your patient are necessary.

If you have a contract that you would like to discuss with an AGD expert, please contact the AGD's Director, Dental Care Advocacy, at 888.243.3368, extension 4973, or dentalcare@agd.org

Patient Newsletters

AGD offers members both electronic and print patient newsletters, *Smileline* and *Dentalnotes*. The two patient newsletters offer vehicles with which to communicate oral health information to your patients and the public.

Dentalnotes is a quarterly consumer newsletter that offers your patients interesting dental health care stories before they read about them in newspapers and popular magazines.

SmileLine is distributed to consumers, media outlets, and members of the dental profession who are interested in receiving the latest oral health news delivered directly to their e-mail inbox.



Member Benefits

AGD Benefits Plus

The AGD offers members discounts on personal and professional services via the Benefits Plus providers.

Save money, build your practice, and protect your investments with AGD Benefits Plus! This program provides numerous benefits and services—such as insurance, financing, and more—to AGD members at a reduced rate.

For more information about the AGD Benefits Plus program, contact the Administrator, Benefits Plus Program, at benefitsplus@agd.org, or 888.243.3368, ext. 4355.

Contract Assistance

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July 26 to 28, 2011: AGD House of Delegates July 28 to 31, 2011: AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits

Get ready, get set, and GO to the premier dental event of the year! The AGD 2011 Annual Meeting & Exhibits will offer attendees the highest quality continuing education, the newest products and techniques, and the most exciting social events in sunny, **San DieGO**.

New! Added CE in San DieGO!

FREE e-learning opportunities totaling approximately 80 hours of continuing education with your AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits registration!