

# NEWSLETTER



February 2011 Vol.1 No.1

## Letter from the President



serve as President of the Fourth District Dental Society during this time of change.

John F. Kennedy said, “change is a law of life”. As we start 2011 in the Fourth District, we are faced with many changes. We have a new District office, a new Executive Director, and a change of officers. I consider it an honor and a privilege to be selected to

As I look back over my own career in dentistry, we have seen many changes in the profession. When I entered dentistry, a “One Write System” was considered progressive. We now have computers, faxes, internet, and paperless office possibilities. When I entered residency and practice, McSpadden Compactors and chloropercha were in vogue. Now the realm of endodontics includes electronic apex locators, rotary instrumentation, Resilon obturation, and operating microscopes. Socket preservation, ridge augmentation, plastic periodontal procedures, osseointegrated root form dental implants, and all-ceramic prosthetic restorations are all relatively new to the profession. Mandatory CE, Ethics courses, Infection Control Training, and Smoking Cessation Courses are examples of the changes which our profession has seen. What will be the changes of the future?

We are blessed to be a chosen member of this wonderful profession. We are able to meet and treat marvelous patients. We can receive instant gratification for the procedures which we perform, have a sense of accomplishment, and are challenged with a lifetime of learning. The competition to gain entry to our chosen profession has become keener than ever. H. Barry Waldman, a professor at SUNY Stony Brook, recently published an article in the NYSDA

Journal asking each of us to examine if we would be rewarded with entry into dental school if we were to apply today.

We are truly privileged to be allowed to practice dentistry. Being a dentist is not a right, it is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities and obligations. We have the responsibility to practice ethically and provide our patients with quality service. We are responsible for learning new techniques, procedures, and the use of new materials.

I suggest that we also have an obligation to the profession of Dentistry. Albert Schweitzer said, “you must give something to your fellow man. Even if it is a little thing, do something for others--- something for which you will receive little or no pay, but the privilege of doing it.”. Membership in the dental society provides many benefits. To fulfill our member benefits requires many volunteers working together on the board, or on one of our committees. If you would like to “give something to your fellow man,” consider serving on a committee or assisting at one of the many district functions.

Dr. G. Kirk Gleason has served our District  
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# Installation Dinner for the District's New Officers



Dr. Parsons receives Past President's Plaque  
from new President, Dr. Harrison

The District's annual Installation Dinner took place on Saturday, January 8th, at the new Jacob and Anthony's Restaurant in Saratoga Springs. District Board Members and all of the District's Past Presidents were invited, comprising a group of about 45 this year. Dr. Gleason was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The dinner was attended by an excellent representation of the District's leaders over the last 30 years as well as the new officers and upcoming leaders who are now on the Board.

Outgoing President, Dr. Dave Parsons, was presented with a plaque and applauded for his guidance and leadership throughout this past year. During his term, he guided us through the transition to a new Executive Director (Mrs. Nancy Hess), a change in governance dictated by the new NYSDA structure, and wonderful and informative meetings in Saratoga and West Point. The District's new President, Dr. Wayne Harrison, was introduced by his long time friend, Dr. Vince Filanova, and outlined his vision for the upcoming year.

The following officers were also inducted:

- President Elect - Dr. Matt Hall
- Vice President - Dr. Doug Sandmann
- Treasurer - Dr. H. John Schutze

Dr. Mike Breault was recognized for service to our District and his outstanding job as the longest running President of NYSDA. Dr. Bettina Pels-Wetzel was honored with a plaque in recognition of her 20 years of service to the District as editor of the newsletter.

Dr. G. Kirk Gleason was recognized for his years of service to the District in many capacities, from governor and officer of NYSDA to an ADA Trustee.



Dr. Gleason receives plaque from  
Dr. Parsons



Sisty Westcott, Dr. Wetzel, and  
Shannon Wetzel



New officers: Dr. Sandmann,  
Dr. Hall, and Dr. Harrison



Dr. Galati addresses leadership



## Letter from the Editors

Thirty years ago the District asked me to be Newsletter Editor, my first real job for the Dental Society. A few years later I passed on the responsibility when I became President. Since then, as you know, I have been involved in about every other way possible on all levels. When Dr. Bettina Pels-Wetzel decided to retire from the job after 20 years I offered to take over once again, for one year. The idea is to mentor a young dentist to take over and thus I have a terrific co-editor, Dr. Michelle Burlingame, a new orthodontist from Ballston Spa, who will be working with me and then will become Editor after a year.

We are changing the way the Newsletter is done and experimenting with a new format. We are using a printable ready software program so that we can do the layout and the photos in close to the finished state before it goes to the printer. This allows the process to be much faster and gives us more control over the look of the final product. Also by reducing the size so that it can be folded, we will be saving significantly on printing and postage. It is a work in progress and we welcome feedback from all of our members to help us make it better for you. Using this format we may also be able to email some issues in the future and place it on the district website.

During my 4 years as Executive Director, I have tried very hard with Nancy's help, to increase the communication between the Dental Society and its members. We took the office into the digital age and now have much better ways of providing information and receiving feedback and inquiries. The new format of the newsletter is just another step in that direction, to help you receive information in a more timely manner and to try and bring you the information you care about.

*-Kirk Gleason*



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## **Special Thank You from the District: Dr. Bettina Pels-Wetzel**

We would like to recognize Dr. Bettina Pels-Wetzel for her 20 years of service to the district as Editor of the newsletter. We appreciate her dedication and would like to extend our gratitude for all her time and efforts to the project over the years. She was also recognized and awarded a plaque for her service at the Installation Dinner on the eighth of January.

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### **President's Letter** *(From Page 1)*

for four years as Executive Director, and has provided the District with many more years of dedication and service in other positions. He has had a tremendous impact on our profession locally, statewide and nationally. Dr. Gleason's "footprint" and "glove print" will be on the District for years to come. Kirk has agreed to return to a position he held thirty years ago to serve as Newsletter Editor and to continue to provide guidance and consultation to the district. Please join the District Officers, Board members and me in thanking Kirk for his countless contributions to the Fourth District.

Having been our Assistant Executive Director for four years, Ms. Nancy Hess began her responsibilities as our Executive Director January

1<sup>st</sup>. During her tenure, Nancy has re-vitalized the district office, been instrumental in introducing technology to the office, has had a tremendous impact on the Saratoga Dental Congress, and has left her mark on recruiting and maintaining membership. Please welcome Nancy to her new position and give her your support.

Once again our Fourth District calendar will be full with Board and committee meetings, CE courses, the Saratoga Dental Congress, a Golf Day, and a Fall Meeting at The Sagamore. You may access the District website at [www.4thdds.org](http://www.4thdds.org) for dates, times, and other information. Please take part in the many opportunities which are made available. As we start a new decade, 2011 promises to be a great year for the Fourth District Dental Society.

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### **The Fourth District Endorses Rich Pauli for Insurance Needs**

The Board of the Fourth District recently endorsed Rich Pauli and the Pauli Financial Group, LLC to help members with their insurance needs. Rich Pauli has been involved with the Dentists of both the Third and Fourth Districts since 1990 and many members are already his clients. He has been a consultant to the District Office and a lecturer at some of our meetings. The Board met with him to discuss how the District could benefit from his services.

Some of the services he provides are: Long Term Care Insurance (4<sup>th</sup> District Discount), Disability Insurance, Business Overhead Insurance, Life Insurance, and Medical Insurance Plans. He also offers Investment (Retirement Planning) along with Comprehensive Financial Planning services for those that are looking for those related services. As a 26 year veteran of the insurance business, Rich is uniquely qualified to serve the membership needs. His office is located in Clifton Park and he can be reached at: 518-383-1238, by email at [rppauli@finsvcs.com](mailto:rppauli@finsvcs.com) or on the Web at [www.paulifinancial.com](http://www.paulifinancial.com)

## Member Profiles: Two New Female Specialists in the District



### **Nancy McDermott, D.M.D., M.D.**

#### **Oral Surgeon - Saratoga County Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates**

In addition to being the first female Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in this area, Dr. McDermott had a very interesting and unusual professional path. She grew up in New York City and began studying ballet at age five. As a teenager, she spent several summers enrolled in Saratoga's NY State Summer School of the Arts for intensive ballet training. "I have always loved this area and have lots of fond memories including attending performances at SPAC, visiting the National Dance Museum and the incredible state park." Dr. McDermott's career as a professional ballet dancer led her to tour the United States until a knee injury unexpectedly forced her to change her professional path. "After a year of living in significant pain, I realized I didn't love to dance anymore. I was never focused on academics in high school but still dreamed of pursuing more education one day, so within one month of retiring as a ballet dancer I enrolled in college."

In 1998, Dr. McDermott graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. In 2002, Dr. McDermott graduated from Harvard School of Dental Medicine and then completed her Oral Surgery residency training at Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital in 2008. In 2005, she earned her MD from Harvard Medical School. Dr. McDermott then completed one year of Fellowship Training in Head & Neck Oncology/Microvascular reconstruction at the University of Maryland and spent one year at the National Institutes of Health as the staff Oral Surgeon.

In September 2010, Dr. McDermott accepted a private practice position at Saratoga County Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates (SCOMSA).



### **Michelle L. Burlingame, D.M.D., M.S.**

#### **Orthodontist - Ballston Spa, NY**

Dr. Burlingame opened her practice, Burlingame Orthodontics, in Ballston Spa this past fall. Originally from the neighboring town of Galway, she is very fond of this area and is happy to be back to stay. "This area has grown a great deal since my days of lifeguarding at Moreau State Park and now has even more to offer."

In 2003, Dr. Burlingame graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. During her time at Cornell she was a member of both the Crew Team and the Nordic Skiing team. In 2007, she graduated from The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine where she organized a dental mission trip to Belize during her junior year. Most recently, Dr. Burlingame completed her Orthodontic residency training at the University at Buffalo in 2010. Upon graduation, Dr. Burlingame decided to open her practice in Ballston Spa with a desire to build a patient-centered practice with a 'small town' feel. More information on the office can be found at [www.BurlingameBraces.com](http://www.BurlingameBraces.com).

Dr. Burlingame now lives in Ballston Spa with her husband, Scott, also a graduate of Galway High School. "Family has always been important to us and we have been looking forward to coming back to continue our personal and professional lives here."

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We would like to feature some of our District's members in future Newsletters. Please email Nancy Hess at [fourthdistrictds@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fourthdistrictds@nycap.rr.com) if you have any suggestions for future Member Profiles.



# News Updates

## 4th District Golf Tournament

The District will hold its second annual Golf Tournament at the Hiland Golf Club on **Friday, July 15th**. Please mark your calendars and join us for the day. This is a fun, no pressure event for all abilities with prizes for various categories. There will be a CE course in the morning (TBA) and a shotgun start for gold at 1:00PM. There will be a box lunch provided between the CE Course and the tournament and a cookout and raffle following the event. You may take the Course and play golf or only participate in one or the other. Almost 70 dentists participated last year and everyone had a wonderful time.

## Annual New Dentists Meeting

On November 2nd, 2010, eighteen of the District's new dentists attended a dinner meeting at Jacob & Anthony's American Grille in Saratoga Springs. The following speakers volunteered their expertise for the meeting:

**Dr. Mark Pierre, Morgan Stanley** - Discussed investments and debt management.

**Mrs. Dale Gleason, Practice Manager Drs. Gleason, Hollis, and Berls** - Discussed hiring and firing of personnel as well as the formation of an effective dental team.

**Dr. Wayne Harrison and Dr. Douglas Sandmann, 4th District members and officers** - Discussed volunteer opportunities in foreign countries from personal experience.

This was an informal and interactive meeting as well as a chance for the new dentists to learn from experienced professionals and to interact with them and their peers. The meeting was intended to be a special service to help the new dentists with their careers, whether they own their own practices, associate with other practitioners, or were planning a future change in their professional situation.

## Senate Passes 1099 Relief Provision

On February 7th, the Senate, led by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), voted unanimously to relieve dentists and other small employers from a law that would require filing of IRS 1099 forms for any exchange of goods or services valued at \$600 or more in a year. The requirement is a provision in last year's health reform law that the ADA and others believe did not reflect the intent of Congress or the President.

The Senate vote amends the 1099 relief provision to the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill (S. 223). Work on that larger bill continues today, with passage likely this week.

The ADA has lobbied against application of the 1099 provision to dentists, physicians, and other small businesses since its enactment last year. They will continue to work on the exempting language until it passes both the Senate and the House and is signed into law by the President. In a media release issued, the ADA thanked Sen. Stabenow for her longstanding support of dentistry and the nation's oral health.

## Annual Women Dentists Meeting

On November 18th, 2010 sixteen member women dentists attending the meeting at the home of Dr. Lisa Berl in Saratoga Springs. Light appetizers and drinks were enjoyed by all during the following speakers:

**Dr. Nancy McDermott, Oral Surgeon** - Discussed her background, experience, and her profession as well as clinical aspects of Oral Surgery.

**Ms. Caroline Russell-Smith, One Roof-Saratoga** - Discussed mindfulness meditation and how it is a practical, assessable, and hard-wired stress-management tool for the practice of Dentistry.

# Board Meeting Highlights

- President Wayne Harrison's first meeting - Wednesday, February 9th from 6:40PM to 9:20 PM
- President-Elect, Dr. Matt Hall, has been hired to oversee the large residency program at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. He will be leaving the area and will therefore step-down as President-Elect in July. He has already secured much of the program for the 2012 Saratoga Dental Congress and will continue to consult with the Committee. The Board is considering several options for replacing Dr. Hall and will decide on how to proceed at a future Board Meeting.
- Treasurer, Dr. H. John Schutze presented the 2011 Budget which will be emailed or mailed to all members and voted on at the Saratoga Dental Congress.
- Dr. Parsons submitted a detailed proposal to formally organize and restructure the existing Saratoga Dental Congress committee. The bylaws committee will prepare the wording for the membership to approve the proposal at the SDC Business Meeting.
- The Board voted to keep advertising on the website limited to a member only benefit and not open to outside groups or vendors.
- The new Executive Director, Mrs. Nancy Hess, reported on a number of activities, the state of the new office, and correspondence.
- The Board approved the following dentists to fill open positions:

Secretary - Dr. Loren Baim - GP in Queensbury

At-Large Director on the Board - Dr. Mike Breault (replacing Dr. Chris Mathiesen)

Rep. to NYSDA Council on Dental Health Planning and Hospital Dentistry - Dr. Jim Condry (replacing Dr. Hall)

- The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Parsons, offered the following slate:

Fourth District Trustee to NYSDA after June House of Delegates Meeting - Dr. Fred Wetzel (replacing Dr. Bauman)

Delegates to the June NYSDA House - Dr. John McCambley, Dr. Rich Dunham, Dr. Jim Galati, and Dr. Fred Wetzel

Alternate Delegates to NYSDA House - Dr. Maybelle Hwang, Dr. Dave Parsons, Dr. Wayne Harrison,  
and Dr. Doug Sandmann

Officers for 2012:	President-Elect - Dr. Doug Sandman	Vice President - Dr. Loren Baim
	Treasurer: Dr. H. John Schutze	Secretary - TBD

## Welcome New Members:

**Dr. Matthew Kovach** - *General Dentistry*  
Case Western Reserve University - 2009  
Clifton Park Family Dentistry - Clifton Park

**Dr. Ralph Daniello** - *Orthodontics*  
SUNY at Buffalo - 1994  
SUNY at Buffalo - 1996 (ortho)  
Daniello Orthodontics - Ballston Spa & Gloversville

**Dr. Peter Bozavikov** - *General Dentistry*  
University of Toronto - 2009  
Hometown Health Center- Schenectady

**Dr. Michelle Burlingame** - *Orthodontics*  
University of Connecticut - 2007  
SUNY at Buffalo - 2010 (ortho)  
Burlingame Orthodontics - Ballston Spa

**Dr. Selma Yucedal** - *General Dentistry*  
SUNY at Stony Brook - 2004  
Rotterdam Dental Arts - Schenectady

**Dr. Erin Page** - *General Dentistry*  
SUNY at Buffalo - 2009  
Lancaster, Emmons, Surman, Moren, and  
Nicholas - Cobleskill

## Your Leaders for 2011:

President - Dr. Wayne Harrison  
President-Elect - Dr. Matt Hall  
Vice President - Dr. Doug Sandmann  
Secretary - Dr. Loren Baim  
Treasurer - Dr. H. John Schutze  
Executive Director - Mrs. Nancy Hess

Newsletter Co-Editors: Dr. G. Kirk Gleason  
and Dr. Michelle Burlingame



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## **Fourth District Newsletter**

**\*\*\* NEW FORMAT \*\*\***



### **Saratoga Dental Congress - May 26 & 27, 2011**

President, Dr. Wayne Harrison, and the SDC Committee has put together a terrific program for our annual meeting at Saratoga in May. You should have now all received the application brochure and we hope you are planning this great opportunity for both you and your staff. As usual there will be speakers with subjects to interest all dentists and the members of their staff. Besides the traditional lectures there will be a Hands-on course for Hygienists and a CPR/AED course available to anyone.

We also expect to have over 50 Dental Exhibitors, prizes and raffles, great food, and an important business meeting for members. The Civic Center has completed a large addition and renovation so that we will be able to have all the large lectures in the main building (Hygienists will not have to walk to the Music Hall). Set aside the dates now and call the District Office (371-1114) if you did not receive the brochure---you can also go to the District Website for information. [www.fourthdds.org](http://www.fourthdds.org)