



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DENTAL ASSOCIATION

AN AFFILIATE OF THE WEST COAST DISTRICT,
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

Newsletter

President's Message



The new year brings with it a chance for us all to take inventory with ourselves and recommit to accomplishing both our personal and professional goals. Looking forward, there is certainly a lot to consider for the upcoming year within our association. Mark your calendars so you will remember our general membership meetings on January 23, March 27, and May 22.

The West Coast District Dental Association's 96th Annual Meeting in Tampa is February 2. The meeting will offer an opportunity to earn some valuable CE as well as a chance to enjoy great camaraderie, both of which will provide a healthy dose of excitement to help us remain excited about our profession.

Don't blink or you may miss out on Dentists' Day on the Hill to be held on February 5-6. I would encourage everyone to consider this option, particularly those who have never done so. Bills have been introduced in both the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives which authorize dental therapists in Florida. With this threat of misguided legislation regarding dental therapists, dentistry in the state of Florida needs a strong showing from us. We are the ones who understand the true nature of our profession, not a bunch of statisticians and academics. We are the dentists practicing in the "real world" and cannot let our future be dictated by organizations with their own agendas.

The FLA-MOM's event will be held March 9-10 in Ft. Myers. This program will not only provide much needed relief for those in need of basic dental care, it also provides us all with the opportunity to give back to our community. If for some reason you are unable to volunteer directly, please consider contributing financially. These are but a few examples of what we have to look forward to this year.

And finally, help us achieve greater success by recruiting a new member today. Take a moment to invite a non-member colleague to our next affiliate meeting to show the importance of networking and organized dentistry!

Sincerely,

David A. Beach, DMD, MS
President

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

6:15 pm - Social 7:00 pm - Dinner/Meeting

Embassy Suites at USF

3705 Spectrum Boulevard, Tampa
(1/2 mile west of MOSI)

A Proven Way to Pay Less Taxes and Improve Cash Flow

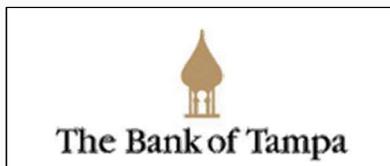
This 1-hour CE arms dentists with the tax strategies needed to lower taxes and improve cash flow.

Jeffrey Junek and Tom Gibson, CPA
Tax Saving Professionals

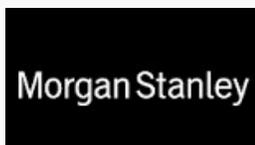
The following prospective members will be on the ballot for election at this meeting:
Drs. Payal Arora, Alexis Dominguez, and Larisa Kushnir.

Please RSVP by January 16 to hcda@hcdafla.com or 813-447-3452.

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Dental Therapist Legislation Introduced in Florida

ALERT

Representative Daniel Perez (R-Miami) has introduced HB 683 and Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) has filed SB 1498 creating the dental therapist in Florida and authorizing them to perform irreversible procedures under the general supervision of a dentist.

HB 683 has been referred to three committees for approval and is now waiting to be heard by the House Health Quality Subcommittee, chaired by Tampa's Representative James "J.W." Grant. The Senate bill has not yet been referred to any committees for hearing.



Welcome New Members

Three new members were elected into membership of the Hillsborough County Dental Association at the November meeting. Please join us in welcoming:

Dr. Brian Hamilton
Dr. Amanda Lazo
Dr. Nicholas Letteri

Dr. Nick Kavouklis Appointed to BOD



HCDA member **Dr. Nicholas M. Kavouklis** has been appointed to the Florida Board of Dentistry. Dr. Nick brings over 25 years of experience in both clinical patient care and practice management as a dental professional. Dr. Nick received his undergraduate Biology degree from the University of South Florida and his D.M.D. from the University of Florida College of Dentistry. He is also a member of the American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, Florida Dental Association and West Coast Dental Association.

FAP to be Led by Dr. Pat Johnson

Next month, HCDA member Dr. Patrick Johnson takes over the reigns as president of the Florida Association Periodontists.

Dr. Johnson has been a member of the Tampa Bay dental community since 1997. He earned his bachelor's degree in Design Engineering from Brigham Young University and his dental degree from the University of Florida College of Dentistry. He then went on to pursue his specialty training at UFCD, completing his periodontal residency program in 1995. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology Dr. Johnson is actively involved in the local dental community and is a past president of the Hillsborough County Dental Association. He regularly volunteers his time and services at several locations throughout the Tampa Bay area and has served abroad in various capacities providing basic dental care for patients in such places as the Dominican Republic.



Dentists' Day on the Hill Participation Lagging

In light of the introduction of dental therapist legislation in Florida this year, it is even more important for dentists to participate in FDA's 2018 DDOH February 5-6 in Tallahassee. To date, only 2 Hillsborough County dentists are signed up to participate. The deadline for the hotel block is January 9, however, you can still sign up to participate and alternate hotel options will be provided. Please make every effort to participate this year. With millions of dollars committed by dental therapist supporters to pass this legislation in Florida, your personal effort to oppose it is critical. Click [here](#) to register.

WCDDA provides funding for first time attendees via the Dan Bertoch Scholarship. To apply, contact the WCDDA at 813-654-2500.

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– Greg Dickinson, DDS

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House of Delegates in Tampa January 26-27

HCDA delegates and alternate delegates are urged to attend the January 26-27 FDA HOD meeting in Tampa. Contact WCDDA at lissette@wcdental.org or call 813-654-2500 to RSVP or if you have questions.

If you would like to observe the workings of a HOD meeting and you are an FDA member, you can attend as a visitor. Just show up, and you will sit in the “Visitors” seating area. Bring your ADA/FDA membership card in case you need to show that you are a member. Ask a delegate or the WCDDA for times.

Medicare Just Got a Little Easier: 3 Things to Know

After significant advocacy efforts from the ADA, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a proposed rule to rescind certain Medicare Part D and C requirements for providers. CMS recently published this information in a proposed rule which is set to be finalized in 2018. We're pleased with this development and think you will be too. Here are three things you need to know about the proposed Medicare changes:

1. Dentists no longer need to enroll in or opt out of Medicare to continue to provide dental care and prescriptions for Part C (also known as Medicare Advantage plans) and Part D drug plan beneficiaries. [Read more in ADA News](#)
2. Dentists no longer need to be enrolled in Medicare in order to provide supplemental services to patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans.
3. The ADA believes these changes remove duplicative paperwork and are good for both patients and dentists.

The ADA's Advocacy team has been working on these issues for more than three years, and we look forward to CMS finalizing this proposed rule in 2018. However, the agency has not rescinded the two-year opt-out period for providers. Dentists who have already opted out cannot accept payments for services covered by Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage plans. [Learn more in this ADA News article](#)

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Dental Charitable Event Needs Your Support



HCDA Diamond Sponsor Kennie Taylor and his team at **Tailored Financial Strategies of Raymond James** is asking you to support this year's Tampa Bay Free Dentistry Bike Challenge on Saturday, March 10. All proceeds from the event will go to benefit **Tampa Family Health Centers**, St. Petersburg Free Clinic and Community Dental Clinic of Clearwater. Ride lengths are for beginners to hard-core riders. For more information about the event and to register, click [here](#).

HCDA Meeting Dates

January 23, 2018	HCDA General Membership Meeting, Embassy Suites at USF
March 27, 2018	HCDA General Membership Meeting, Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club
May 22, 2018	HCDA General Membership Meeting, Tampa Yacht Club

Tripartite Upcoming Events

WCDDA Annual Meeting February 2, 2018--Tampa
FDA Dentists' Day on the Hill February 5-6, 2018--Tallahassee
FDA FLA-MOM March 9-10, 2018--Fort Myers
WCDDA President's Trip to Scotland, April 21-28, 2018
FDC June 21-23, 2018--Orlando
WCDDA Summer Meeting July 20-22, 2018--Marco Island

The Hillsborough County Dental Association

is available to assist you
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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The HCDA Newsletter is published five times a year in September, October, January, March and May. The Editor and staff organize, print and mail to membership. The position of the editor is elected by the Executive Council and does not have a specified term. The editorial staff holds the right to deny ads submitted for publishing. The newsletter may publish signed articles relating to all phases of dentistry, but assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed by the contributors. Publication in this newsletter does not imply the Hillsborough County Dental Association endorses any products or services that are advertised. Views, editorials, news columns and/or articles are those of the authors and not necessarily of the editor, staff, or members of the Hillsborough County Dental Association.