

FAPD Newsletter, Fall 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the summer started, I also started my term as your president. John Bazos eased into the position of immediate past president, as Pete Claussen assumed the duties of Vice President, and Howard Schneider joined the ladder as secretary/treasurer. Carroll Bennett has turned the duties of Executive Secretary over to Bob Primosch. I look forward to serving our organization and its members. While I admit that I am not very articulate when addressing large groups I will be working hard throughout the year. Our big issue, the Medicaid lawsuit will continue, under the eye of Senator John Grant (our legislative advocate), to grind on with a life of its own, but we are ready to act if needed. Bob Primosch and Butch Bunn will be monitoring the Board of Dentistry as it considers changes to the sedation rules, again!

My major project of my year is to increase our membership, mostly by recruiting Pediatric Dentists in Florida who are not members. Howard Schneider has taken charge here as membership chairman. I divided the state into 6 areas, the six FDA components. I have chosen one member to lead each component. They are Pete Claussen (Northwest), Howard Schneider (Northeast), Charlie Bertot (Central Florida), Ken Rogers (West Coast), John Bazos (Atlantic Coast) and Mario Martinez (South Florida). These members will identify the potential members in that area and lead all efforts. If they call you and ask for your help, please help; or better yet call them to ask how you can help. If you know of any potential members, please bring them to the attention of the area leader and start talking to the potential member about FAPD.

I am also concerned about the overzealous prosecution (persecution?) of Medicaid providers and have appointed Tom Floyd to work in this area. In addition Tom has found out that due to a law change, we, as a group can bid to administer Medicaid ourselves. Our board of directors voted to let him proceed and provide some financial support.

Jim McIlwain was agreed to chair a new communications committee, which will include a website which Howard Schneider is looking in to.

Immediately after my inauguration, Dr. Louis St. Petery, of the Florida Academy of Pediatrics (our allie in the lawsuit) asked our position on non-dentists being allowed to apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of young Medicaid patients. In a position paper I stated that while we did not support it, we would not oppose it with certain limitations. If you wish to see the position paper please email me, and I will email it back. A certain individual (not Dr. St. Petery or FAP) distorted this into FAPD and AAPD supporting a complete dental program for physicians. Steps have been taken through several channels to correct this falsehood. We have no opinion on the whole program, as it has not been presented to us yet. We will follow this.

Locally, I am pleased to report that the Palm Beach County Commission voted to continue to add fluoride to the county water system. Our letter endorsing water fluoridation was a big help, so I am told.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Bazos and Carroll Bennett for their past service, as well as John Grant for his continued service.

Feel free to contact me at any time. My email address is drpaul4kids@yahoo.com. My phone numbers are (all 561 area code) ; office - 391-6066; home - 368-4326; cell (actually my wife, Anita's) – 445-7924; and fax – 393-7361. My address is: 7301 W. Palmetto Park Road, #203B, Boca Raton, FL33433-3456.

Have a great fall.

Paul Werner, President

PRACTICE PROTECTION

I am attempting to set up a state wide network to help cover the practice of a member who dies or is injured. Other members would help to provide coverage to the practice until the member can return to work, or until appropriate arrangements can be made. I feel that this is especially important to the solo practitioner (like me), but even if you are in a group, would you still consider helping a colleague in need. If you are willing to commit to helping out, you will get help, if you need it. If you are interest in participating, please let me know. At this point, I only need names to get started.

Paul Werner, President

MEMBERSHIP

Since our June meeting, the newly appointed membership committee has been working to identify pediatric dentists in the state who are not members of FAPD.

Preliminary letters and applications were sent to area committee members and other interested members to pass on to these potential members. We have also identified students at the two in-state residency training programs. I will initiate phase two in the next 2-3 weeks with a new round of letters and begin to recommend one on one contact with pediatric dentist. It appears that we have three groups: Retired dentist living in Florida; new dentist setting up practice and have limited resources; and, a group who do not want to join any organization.

Howard Schneider, Membership Chair

NEW WEBSITE

Jim McIlwain and myself have been working with Dentist4Kids.com on our Website. We have just received the front cover and our web name: www.FAPD4Kids.org. We will keep everyone up to date on progress.

Howard Schneider, Web-site Chair

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2006 Florida legislative session is behind us, but not forgotten by many is the strong presence of FAPD on Capitol Hill. During the session we:

- Visited with many legislators and testified before committees on legislation concerning pediatric dental and children's health in general
- Worked alongside FDA in regard to the passage of legislation dealing with hygienists, continuing education and licensure
- Had a strong presence of pediatric dentists participating in DDOH
- Continued to take the lead in Medicaid litigation
- Had a seat and played a lead role in the roundtable of children's health lobbyists
- Continued to be sought out for our opinion on children's health issues
- Made further progress in being recognized as a source of information and opinion of children's dental issues

All of this is to say that in three short years with our legislative effort, we have made great progress and I personally am indebted to each of you for your hard work, your dedication to legislative advocacy and for allowing me the high honor of being your advocate in Tallahassee.

Things are rather quiet for the summer and the total focus is on the elections coming this fall. I encourage you all to get involved with the candidates in your neighborhood and back those who are favorable to our issues. Let us remember to help them before the election and ask them to help us after their election.

Have a great fall and remember that all we do is for the betterment of all Florida children everywhere in our state.

John Grant, FAPD Legislative Advocate

ANESTHESIA COMMITTEE

The Florida Board of Dentistry has made several changes in the requirements for conscious sedation permit issuance and maintenance – please stay informed of these changes by reviewing the new rules and regulations. Dr. Dennis Stone, pediatric anesthesiologist in north Florida, who provides in-office anesthesia services, is currently working with the BOD on a draft rule change to permit physician anesthesiologists to

practice in our offices. This change, if approved, will remove the ambiguous and often confusing wording in the current permit regulations.

Bob Primosch, Anesthesia Chair