

FAPD NEWSLETTER

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2012-2013 FAPD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- **President - Dr. Gary Myers**
- **Vice President - Dr. Nick White**
- **Sec./Treas. - Dr. Julie Russo**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may think we spend too much time worrying about Medicaid and Medicaid providers in the state. I know I used to think this way since I didn't want anything to do with the current Medicaid system. These days, nothing could be further from reality. As a profession we have an ethical responsibility to look out for the health of all children of the state of Florida. While this doesn't have to involve caring for each and every child in our practice, it at least involves advocating for them at a political level. We have to engage the politicians as to the dental condition of the children of Florida as well as advise them on the consequences of policies they are considering or proposals that are being pitched with wonderful terms by other special interest groups. We need to be in front of them so they know they can turn to us for help in decisions or clarity on policy. This is most important on a local level with your local state representative. When was the last time you requested a meeting or emailed your local representative? When was the last time you donated a mere \$100 to a local campaign?



Gary Myers
FAPD President

These things do matter. Here is just a few things on the radar that you may not know about. Obamacare has language in it that will require every medical plan in a state exchange to include dental coverage for those under 18. How will this change the landscape of dentistry? How will they pay for that? Think it won't affect you since you don't take Medicaid? Considering the political discussion at the federal and state level has proposed raising the Medicaid eligible level to as much as 400% of poverty level (or an income of under 95K for a family of 4) and suddenly the long arm of the government may be reaching into all of our practices in a big way. Did you know Governor Scott is moving to have medical insurance administer the dental policies unless two bills sponsored by our friends in the state house and senate are passed. Combine these two trends together and things could be changing considerably in the next few years. My point is not to scare you, but to make you aware that now is not the time to be asleep at the wheel. Now is the time for the FAPD to be a strong advocate for the children of Florida. Please be an active member and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Things are changing too quickly.

--Gary Myers

QUICK BITES

- ◆ Interested in what's going on in the Legislature? Learn more - page 2
- ◆ Curious about the new dues structure? Find out - page 2
- ◆ Learn about the Annual FAPD CE Course and other great CE opportunities. See what's available - page 3
- ◆ Do you want to help out at the AAPD Annual Session? Discover how - page 3

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE UPDATE

The 2013 session of the Florida Legislature opened on March 5. Already four weeks of committee hearings have occurred and some bills were ready to go to the floor on opening day. Already more than a thousand bills have been filed with more to follow.

So far, there appear to be no dental bills of great concern. With the economy slightly improved, there is a projected slight surplus for the first time in four years. However, the elephant in the room is Medicaid, the costs of which are increasing daily.

Obviously, Medicaid is of great concern to pediatric dentists. Florida is on the verge of receiving final approval of a proposal to shift almost all Medicaid beneficiaries into managed-care plans, a controversial idea that Gov. Rick Scott and Republican legislative leaders have long championed.

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which has been negotiating with state Medicaid officials, sent a letter indicating it would approve the proposal -- known commonly as a Medi-

caid waiver -- though it also said some details still need to be finalized.

Calling it a "compassionate, common-sense step forward," Gov. Rick Scott said he would support a potentially massive expansion of the Medicaid program under the federal Affordable Care Act.

There is no doubt that Medicaid will be the most controversial budget item the legislature will deal with this session.

Our case against the state ended nearly nine months

ago and a ruling was promised by the court by August of last year. However no ruling has been forthcoming, but could be received at any time and that could have great impact on the session actions on Medicaid.

As your representative on the hill, I will be there for the session and keep your leadership advised as the session progressed. As always, I am honored to be your legislative advocate.

FAPD Legislative Advocate

John Grant

Florida State Senator (Ret.)

Attorney at Law

John.Grant@johngrant.net



FAPD DUES UPDATE

We are happy to report that since combining our dues collection with the AAPD's, we have increased membership in the FAPD. We would like to welcome our newest members, and encourage those that haven't submitted dues yet to do so in a timely fashion. By paying your dues, we can continue to provide your existing benefits as well as add new ones at a reduced cost for all involved.

Below are the activities that we have been involved with this past year:

- ◆ Actively monitoring and engaging the state politicians on legislative issues either through our lobbyist John Grant or by members personally.
- ◆ Patiently awaiting a ruling on our Medicaid lawsuit to increase access to medical and dental care.
- ◆ Working with the Agency for Health Care Administration to protect Medicaid provider dentists when necessary.
- ◆ Providing input and monitoring regarding plans by politicians for pediatrician applied fluorides.
- ◆ Monitoring and providing input and direction to the Board of Dentistry Anesthesia Committee as they rewrite the rules on sedation for adults and children as the board does not always consider the collateral effect that occurs to children based on the policies it enacts. We are also the face of pediatric dentistry before the FDA.
- ◆ Supporting dental students that show in interest in pediatric dentistry through the Dr. Charles Fain Award.
- ◆ Sponsoring a yearly CE course in the fall that is a wonderful venue for fellowship as well as information, as well as the Pediatric Sedation/ACLS course tailored to the needs of pediatric dentists doing office sedation.
- ◆ Working with other State, District and National organizations representing the interests of Florida pediatric dentists, as well as, co-sponsoring valuable live and online continuing education.

Beginning July 1, 2012, FAPD dues were collected along with AAPD dues. A reminder that AAPD bylaws require that you also maintain membership in your State association.



FAPD ANNUAL CE COURSE

The 2012 FAPD CE Course was a huge success as we teamed with Dr. Roger Levin to present "The No-Stress Pediatric Dental Practice." FAPD members received 10 CE credits for only \$99, while staff cost just \$49!! Dr. Levin presented an amazing 2 day course with many pearls that dentists were able to implement in their offices immediately. Almost 200 dentists and staff attended this highly worthwhile course.

Plans are already in the works for the 2013 FAPD CE Course so mark your calendars and don't miss out!!

The FAPD is also co-sponsoring several courses in the spring in Gainesville. The PedoGator course in March and the Pediatric Sedation/ACLS Training course in April are sure to be fantastic. For more information or to register, log onto our website, www.FAPD4Kids.org.

SSPD RESORT MEETING

This year's meeting is going to be right here in our own backyard at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa in beautiful Destin, Florida. The dates are Friday, April 5th - Sunday, April 7th and will feature renowned speaker, Dr. Lorne Lavine discussing technology in the office. If you have ever been to an SSPD resort meeting, you know that it is a great escape and a great opportunity for CE. For more information log onto the SSPD website at www.sspd.org. Hope to see you there!!

FAPD ANNUAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

We are privileged to have the AAPD Annual Session in our home state, and because we anticipate a high number of Florida pediatric dentists in attendance, the FAPD Annual Business Luncheon will take place at the AAPD Annual Session instead of the FNDC this year. The Annual Business Luncheon will take place on **Saturday, May 25, 2013 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Dolphin Hotel, room Oceanic 5**. As a member benefit, current FAPD members can attend free of charge while guests will be \$60 per person. Pre-registration is required and can be done at www.fapd4kids.org under the "Meetings" tab. Deadline for registration is May 15, 2013. We look forward to having great attendance at the meeting!!

AAPD ANNUAL SESSION

The Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is proud to host the 66th Annual Session of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry at Orlando's Walt Disney World Resort, May 23 - 26, 2013. This meeting historically has been very well attend-

ed and breaks attendance records for all other Annual Sessions. This year's Annual Session is no different as current registration numbers are far ahead of the past two years meetings at this point in time. In order for this meeting to be

as big a success as it has been in the past, we need and want your help. There is no capacity of your time too big or too small as a pool of approximately 100 volunteers are needed. If you are willing to volunteer some time to the Scientific, Hospitality, Research Poster or Exhibit

Hall Committee, please contact our Co-Chairs for the Local Arrangements Committee Dr. Charlie Bertot (drbertot@ibrushteeth.com) or Dr. Rachele Dermody (rachelledermody@aol.com). Thanks in advance for your efforts and we'll see you in Orlando!!

Save the Date!!

2013 FAPD CE Course

Saturday, October 26, 2013

Orlando, Florida

2013 AAPD ANNUAL SESSION

May 23-26, 2013

Orlando, Florida

WDW Swan Dolphin Resort

Additional Dates to remember:

March 22, 2013 PedoGator CE Course - Update on Dental Traumatology with Dr. Dennis McTigue, Gainesville, FL

April 4-7, 2013 SSPD Resort Meeting, San Destin, FL

April 18-21, 2013 Sedation/ACLS Recertification CE Course, Gainesville

We are on the web!!

www.FAPD4Kids.org

**FLORIDA ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

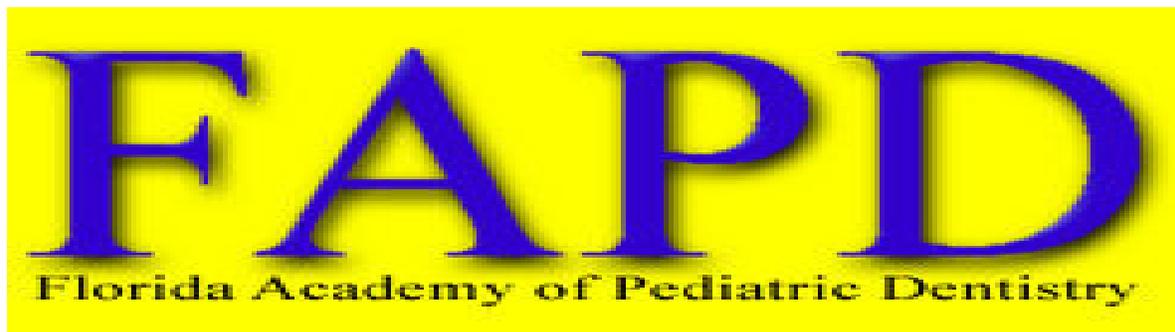
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For any questions or comments, please
contact FAPD President Dr. Gary Myers at
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**NEXT BOD
MEETING**

May 17, 2013
Holiday Inn 1-295 &
Baymeadows
11083 Nurseryfields Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 854-8000

The mission of the FAPD is to practice the art and science of Pediatric Dentistry and promote optimal health care for infants, children, and persons with special health care needs. The FAPD advocates professional development and continued education of the health professions and remains a liaison to other health caregivers and the public.



Editor's Corner - Reza Ardalan, DMD

"Membership has its privileges!" That quote is just as accurate for American Express as it is for organized dentistry. Whether it's protecting our rights to remain autonomous, promoting oral health care for children, partaking in amazingly affordable CE, or just networking with colleagues, the FAPD has its privileges. Several years ago when membership started to diminish, the FAPD responded by steadily increasing member benefits. The result has been a surge in new members and a stronger organization! The FAPD will continue to provide members with representation that they can be proud of! With that being said, we have a stronger voice with a larger more active membership. If you have yet to join the FAPD, just remember another famous company quote and "Just Do It!" You won't be disappointed!