

FAPD NEWSLETTER

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2011-2012 FAPD EXECUTIVE BOARD

- **President -
Dr. Reza Ardalan**
- **Vice President -
Dr. Stu Bonnin**
- **Sec./Treas. -
Dr. Gary Myers**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you. That's how I want to start off this message. I want to thank the members of the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry for allowing me the honor of serving another year as President. I want to thank the members of the Executive Board, our Executive Director, our Legislative Advocate and all of our Past Presidents for all of the help that they have given me over the past year and a half. Finally, I would like to thank our members. Thank you for going out there each and every day trying to make a child's life better. Thank you for volunteering for committees and showing up for meetings and giving your input. The FAPD belongs to us all, and I thank you for helping get us back to a position of prominence!

Now let's get down to business!! During my time as President, I've set some lofty goals, and I am proud to say that we are making some great progress towards those targets. I spent much of last year listening to what our members wanted, and along with your Executive Board, we have been working hard to make your requests a reality. I'd like to take a just a minute to update our members on some of the changes with the FAPD.

One of the upgrades that we have made has been to our website. Information is much easier to find for parents looking for a dentist, as well as, for members. Log onto our website at www.FAPD4kids.org

and check it out. You will be able to register for upcoming CE courses and meetings, you can check out the newsletters, you can complete online CE, and FAPD members can even have their office website added as a link.

Communication has been another big goal of the FAPD this year. We are working hard at making sure that our members are being informed of what is happening with pediatric dentistry both within the organization and on a state level. In addition to frank discussions at our annual meeting, we are sending out monthly email updates to keep you informed. Also, we have a great facebook page to help keep you posted on upcoming events. Find us on facebook or through our website and "Like" us for updates.

In this newsletter, you are going to read a lot about major changes that have been going on at the state level that could affect how we practice dentistry. The FAPD prides itself on trying to remain on the forefront of these issues. Special thanks go out to our Legislative Advocate, Senator John Grant, and to all of our members that have been working tirelessly on your behalf.

Many members have approached me and asked if the FAPD would offer more pedo related continuing education. Your request has been heard and changes have been made. First off, we have part-



**Reza Ardalan, DMD
FAPD President**

nered with the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry and now have access to their extensive library of online CE. Just log onto the "Online CE" tab on our website and you will find tons of great CE at your fingertips. In addition, we are proud to have the return of the Annual FAPD CE Course!! This year the course will be on Saturday, November 19th at the Lake Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa in Orlando, Florida. We have made this CE diverse and affordable. Members pay only \$250 for 5 CE credits, and that includes a great catered lunch. We have several sponsors who have agreed to help with the cost of the course and these great vendors will be at your disposal during the meeting. We want this meeting to be the start of a long tradition of great CE, but we need your help. Come to the meeting and show your support as you reacquaint

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Finally, one of the biggest obstacles that we face as a dental organization is how to remain fiscally solvent as membership in organizations continues to wane. By providing new and innovative member benefits, we hope to attract and keep members. In addition, we have devised several methods of building back our reserve funds. First off, Senator Grant has agreed to cut his already reduced salary in half for the next two years so that we can save money. In addition, starting in July, dues collection will be carried out by the AAPD. We

believe that consolidating the dues process will make it easier for members to pay. It is important to note that according to the AAPD bylaws, you must maintain membership in your state dental society to remain an active member of the AAPD. Because we will be doing a dues invoice in July, you will notice that the current FAPD invoice that you are receiving is for only half of the usual dues amount.

Since the AAPD will be taking over dues collection, we will be adjusting our membership categories to

coincide with that of the AAPD's. In addition, our Constitution and Bylaws committee is doing a complete review of our current rules and will propose any changes to be voted on by the membership.

I apologize for the long address, but for those of you that I have had the pleasure to meet in person, you know that I am very passionate about the FAPD and the potential that our organization possesses. I encourage you to get involved at any level that you feel comfortable: join a committee, utilize

the website or come to the CE course. I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando in November!!



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE UPDATE

Every ten years the legislature must redraw district boundaries for legislative and congressional seats, thus necessitating an early session. Therefore, the 2012 session will begin in January rather than the usual spring session. That means that committee meetings and consideration of bills has already begun.

Clearly the reapportionment process and balancing the budget will be the overwhelming issues of the session. Florida's economy is still worse off than most oth-

er areas of the country with more than 10% of all Floridians unemployed and in some counties it is more than 30%. While the revenue deficit is not expected to be as great as it has been for the past three years, we can still expect more cuts and a rock solid legislative pledge to not raise taxes.

Sadly, most of the cuts will come from social services, especially medical care. When employment goes down, Medicaid goes up. We were fortunate last year that more money got put in the

budget for children's Medicaid and subsequently per procedure reimbursement fees were increased, but with continued employment and the threat of a double dip recession there is no guarantee that there will be sufficient Medicaid funds to last through the fiscal year.

As your FAPD legislative advocate, I will be on capitol hill for the session, monitoring all dental related legislation and conveying the FAPD position to legislators. It promises to be a lively session and as always, I am honored to continue to be your voice before the Florida Legislature.

FAPD Legislative Advocate

John Grant

Florida State Senator (Ret.)

Attorney at Law

John.Grant@johngrant.net

BOARD OF DENTISTRY UPDATE

There has been a lot of activity this past year with the Board of Dentistry that deals with pediatric dentistry. As many of you became aware from the FAPD email blasts, there has been a tremendous amount of talk regarding the use of in-office sedation. It began with the BOD's desire

to eliminate the use of Ketamine. As a result of this attempt, the FAPD was able to place two members, Drs. Frank Sierra and Nick White on the BOD Anesthesia Committee. Drs. Sierra and White have been working hard on your behalf to maintain your privileges. Their current bat-

tle involves the BOD questioning the use of MD anesthesiologists in the office. The FAPD has sent a position statement to the BOD and will remain on top of this issue.

NEXT BOD MEETING

October 28, 2011

Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Airport

1870 Griffin Road

Dania Beach 33004

(954) 920-3300

MEDICAID INCREASE

Many of you have heard about the recent increase in Medicaid provider fees. The State approved a \$56 million dollar increase in Medicaid dental services, the first such increase in almost 20 years! The result of this was a 48.63% fee increase. It should be noted that until our lawsuit against the state, there was nothing more than talk in regards to fee increases.

As excited as we are that the fees have finally come up slightly, this should be tempered by the knowledge that the State is moving all Medicaid dental services to managed care, and their goal is to have dental services lumped in with medical services by October 1, 2014. What is going to happen to this fee increase then, is anyone's guess.

DUES CHANGE

Starting July 1, 2012, annual dues for the FAPD will be paid in conjunction with AAPD dues. When you receive your 2012 AAPD dues statement, the FAPD dues will be assessed on the same invoice. The AAPD membership cycle runs from July - June, whereas, the FAPD billing cycle has always been January - December. Since we will be adapting to the AAPD membership cycle, you are receiv-

ing a partial dues statement to carry your membership through to July 2012. We ask that you remit this amount to the FAPD so that there is not a lapse in your membership.

Allowing the AAPD assist us in dues collection should allow us to reach more members and increase the organization's budget. As this occurs, we are optimistic

that we may be able to reduce the dues amount in the upcoming years. As always, we thank you for your membership and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

FAPD dues will now be collected along with AAPD dues beginning July 1, 2012. AAPD bylaws require that you also maintain membership in your State association.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This past session of the State Legislature saw a lot of changes that will affect dentistry in Florida for years to come. One of the biggest changes is that the dental licensure examination will now be administered ADLEX and anyone that has taken the exam within the past year, can apply for a license

right now.

Another big change deals with hygienist's authority in public health access settings (including schools). The initial bills allowing hygienists to provide children with prophylaxis, fluoride varnish and sealants without an examination by a dentist did not make it out of committee.

However, the hygiene provision discussed above was added to House Bill 1319 and Senate Bill 1228, which were eventually approved by the Governor.

Senator Grant and our Legislative Committee will help keep the FAPD and our members apprised of any new developments.



Annual FAPD CE Course
Saturday, November 19, 2011
Lake Buena Vista Palace
Hotel and Spa
Orlando, Florida 32830
5 CE Credits
FAPD members - \$250
Nonmembers - \$300
Students - \$50

We are on the web!!

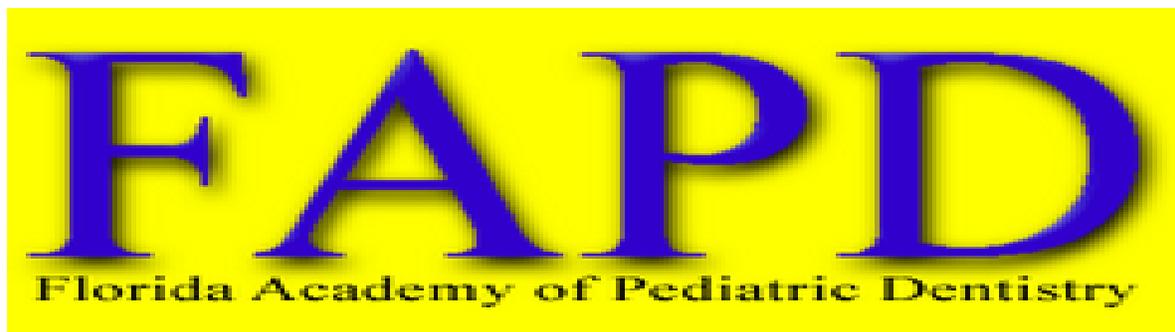
www.FAPD4Kids.org

**FLORIDA ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

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Gainesville, Florida 32605
Phone: (352) 273-5953
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For any questions or comments, please
contact FAPD President Dr. Reza Ardalan
RezaHeel@aol.com

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.



MENTORING PROGRAM

Do you remember what it was like when you first completed your residency? Did you have all the answers, or could you have used a little guidance? The FAPD is looking for experienced pediatric dentists to act as mentors for recently graduated dentists. We are hoping to have a few mentors in each area of the state to help facilitate the transition from school to “the real world.” Mentors should be available to answer questions and help promote camaraderie within pediatric dentistry. Interested individuals should

contact Dr. Reza Ardalan at RezaHeel@aol.com.

Like the newsletter?

Do you like the new format of the newsletter? As always, your FAPD Executive Board is always open to new suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with any ideas.

Interested in getting involved? The FAPD is always looking for hard-working individuals to help out. Contact us for more information.