

Fall 2010 Newsletter

From your President:

Greetings to all of my pediatric colleagues!! I write this letter both proud and excited to be serving as the President of the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. By the time that you read this, the holiday season will be upon us. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and joyous holiday season and a healthy new year.

As a proud member of both the AAPD and FAPD, I truly believe in the benefits of organized dentistry. Over the past several years, membership in organized dentistry has steadily decreased, as is the case with the FAPD. I want our organization to return to its former glory and once again be the premier specialty society in the state. I began my term as President with a lot of great ideas on how to increase membership and had many thoughts on what our members wanted. However, before figuring out how to increase our membership, I felt it was important to learn why membership has declined in recent years. Over the past few months, I have randomly called Florida pediatric dentists that were members and non-members of FAPD to ask them what they thought was lacking with our group and what they wanted to see our organization do. I can't say that I was surprised to hear that many people do not perceive that membership is "worth it." Now, I can spend all day talking about all of the great things that FAPD advocacy has done from representing us at the legislative level making sure that our issues are addressed, to being a voice for the underserved in our Medicaid lawsuit. However, more and more people are demanding more for their money. I am here to say that I hear you, and I am going to do my best to make that happen. I want to make the FAPD an organization that you WANT to join, not one that you are encouraged to join to be as an AAPD member. I want you to value your membership. Taking everyone's thoughts into consideration, I wanted to share with you several of the ideas on the horizon for FAPD.

The first thing that we are planning is the return of our annual CE course. Those of you who attended our CE course in Orlando two years ago know what a great educational event it was. This year, however, we are taking a little different approach with our CE course. We are pleased to announce that we are combining our CE course with the SSPD's annual resort meeting and having a joint sponsored CE course. This event promises to be awesome! The event will take place April 7-10, 2011 and will be headlined by Rella Christensen. In addition, many of our own FAPD members will be providing different "Pearls" as part of the continuing education. If you are interested in being one of our distinguished speakers, please contact me. The meeting will take place at the Ritz-Carlton in beautiful Amelia Island. There will be plenty of social activities and time to enjoy the facilities. In addition, there will be a series of FAPD sponsored events during the weekend so please mark the date in your calendars and plan to attend.

In addition to our annual CE meeting, there are plenty of other FAPD sponsored CE events that are taking place including an FAPD sponsored Pediatric Conscious Sedation and ACLS training course in Gainesville and a PedoGators sponsored course in Naples where FAPD members will be able to register for a reduced fee. Furthermore, FAPD will be co-sponsoring Dr. Gregory Psaltis at this year's FNDC. If you have not heard Dr. Psaltis speak, then you are in for a treat as he is a very entertaining speaker. We are thrilled to offer these benefits to our members and we encourage you to take advantage of them. Please visit our website for more details.

Many of our members have asked for more tangible items available to them on a daily basis. In turn, we are also in the process of establishing online pediatric CE through our website for FAPD members. While we would love to see everyone at our annual business luncheon and CE course, online CE for FAPD members allows you access at the touch of a fingertip. Make sure to visit our website at www.FAPD4kids.org.

Other items that are in the works for FAPD include updating our newsletter and website to include classified ads and job listings for members, establishing a mentor program for new FAPD members, development of an FAPD PAC, adding PayPal as a payment source and much much more.

I am committed to making sure that FAPD is a success and I am asking you today for your help. Come to the resort meeting, visit the website, volunteer for a committee or simply give me a call or shoot me an email to talk about how to improve YOUR organization. I want FAPD to be great once again. Will you help?

Sincerely,
Reza Ardalán, FAPD President
RezaHeel@aol.com

From your Legislative Advocate:

The 2010 election cycle has been a strange one indeed... one with a lot of surprises and unexpected outcomes. The emergence of a third party (Tea Party) changed a lot of races. In the end, Florida's government is one that is dominated more by one party than at any time in the past forty years. The Republicans now hold every cabinet office and have an extraordinary majority in both houses of the legislature.

The make-up of the legislature and announced agenda of the governor will have significant impact on the delivery of children's services, especially Medicaid. On the very first day of the organizational session, the legislature took up a discussion on Medicaid revamping and indicated that it will be a major focus of the regular session this coming spring. FAPD will be actively involved in those discussions to push for increases in provider fees and expanded coverage for children.

Meanwhile, the federal trial of the litigation FAPD filed against the state continues in Miami and our attorneys remain optimistically confident that the court will see the merits of our case and rule accordingly.

Between the courts, the legislature and the federal government we see 2011 as a busy year for FAPD legislative involvement and I continue to honor the opportunity to represent FAPD and more importantly the dental needs of Florida's children, both those who can pay and those who cannot.

Our legislative efforts in Florida have caught the attention of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and other state organizations around the county. We have become a model for others to follow and I am honored to have been asked to address the AAPD annual meeting next spring in New York to tell others what we are doing in Florida.

Respectfully submitted

John Grant