

# Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

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Howard Schneider

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Natalie Carr

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Paul Werner

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Howard Schneider

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Frank Sierra

Leigh Ann McIlwain

## Legislative Advocate

## and General Counsel

Senator John Grant

## **President's Message**

The annual meeting in Orlando brought about a changing of the guard. Paul Werner is now the immediate past president, Howard Schneider is vice-president, and Natalie Carr is secretary/treasurer. I have taken over the reins as president in what is promising to be an extremely active year.

I believe that most of you are aware of the current lawsuit with the state of Florida. The Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry along with the Florida Academy of Pediatrics is currently involved with litigation to protect the right of children to receive proper medical and dental care. This has been made possible by the untiring efforts of our lobbyist, Senator John Grant, as well as my friend and colleague Louis St. Petery, a pediatric cardiologist from Tallahassee. Despite the best efforts of the State of Florida to have the lawsuit dismissed, the federal judge hearing the case has ordered a trial scheduled for June. Mediation with the state is currently scheduled for January. The favorable rulings in others states around the nation should give all of us hope that there will be a fair and equitable settlement in the matter this year.

During the annual FDA meeting, which was held concomitantly with ours, the Florida Dental Association voted to support us in our legal battle with the state to the tune of \$100,000. We owe a debt of gratitude to FDA president Nolan Allen for his generous offering of support in this matter. Kudos also to Tom Floyd and John Grant whose tireless efforts helped secure this support from the FDA.

At the annual meeting in Orlando this June, Senator Grant graciously agreed to represent our interests on "The Hill." He will continue as our spokesperson as well as our friend for another two years. This will be a huge "ace in the hole" for the Academy and the children of the state as this whole process comes to fruition in a few months.

Another matter decided at the general membership meeting was to provide \$35,000 in financial support to Tom Floyd's insurance company. This will be in the form of a loan to support Tom's effort to establish a fee for service HMO to replace the current capitation style HMO's that are currently being tested in some areas of the state. We all wish Tom and his board of directors the best in his efforts to help us provide care for the underprivileged children of the state. More information about this program is included in this mailing.

Members of the Academy should be proud of the leadership which all of us have benefited from over the previous years. These conscientious past presidents have all promised to provide counsel and support. With their help I hope to keep the Academy on a positive track for the coming year. I want to thank each and every one of you who continues to support the Academy and its effort to help the children of the state. There is no greater good than touching the life of a child.

Peter B. Claussen DDS

FAPD President