

FAPD NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS	1
PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCATE UPDATE	2
MEMBER SPOT-LIGHT	2
FAPD ANNUAL CE COURSE	3
FAPD BUSINESS LUNCHEON	3
AAPD ANNUAL SESSION	3
EDITOR'S CORNER	4

2013-2014 FAPD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- **President - Dr. Nick White**
- **Vice President - Dr. Julie Russo**
- **Sec./Treas. - Dr. Eric Berry**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Great! Fantastic! Wonderful! These are all terms I have heard from friends and colleagues following the AAPD annual session this year in Orlando. The same superlatives can be said about our very own FAPD. As FAPD President, I have a daunting task ahead; I am following in the footsteps of our past presidents who have done such a tremendous job establishing and promoting our academy and bringing it to its current status. With the implementation of dues collection by the AAPD for our annual dues, we have seen a large uptick in our state membership levels, as well as our financial stability. In fact, this allowed us to reduce our dues by \$50 this year! This increase in membership is a large stepping stone for our organization. This larger membership gives us a stronger voice for Florida's kids, both in the legislative ring as well as with the Board of Dentistry. We currently have several members working in these key areas, however, we still need member support. We have several volunteers who donate their time and efforts for state legislative meetings, Dentist's Day on the Hill, board meetings, Board of Dentistry committee calls, etc, but we still need more help. In addition, the FAPD has been active on many fronts. With the help of our new state public policy advocate, Dr. Eli White, we continue to offer input for Medicaid reform. Through advisors to the BOD Anesthesia Committee, we continue to have more input concerning anesthesia and conscious sedation not only for our members, but for all dentists throughout Florida. Through our members who maintain delegate status with the FDA, we continue to have input with all matters related to dental care for the state of Florida. These efforts have allowed us to become a larger player on the stage and have gotten the attention of state legislators, Board of Dentistry members and committees, and the Florida Dental Association. We have also turned our attention towards top level CE courses for our members. We are making a concentrated effort to ensure the Annual FAPD CE Course becomes a staple in the fall as we are making efforts to book high level speakers and increase attendance. The sky is the limit, but we need your feedback and support! If you have topics that you are interested in, send us an email. If you have questions or concerns about legislative efforts, recent changes to laws governing dentistry, let us know. We have resources available to all members and look forward to helping you. Let's make this another great year for the FAPD!!



Nick White
FAPD President

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 Business Meeting. Check it out - page 3
- ◆ What happened at the AAPD Annual Session? Find out - page 3

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCATE UPDATE

As the FAPD Advocate for Children's Dental Health, I have written numerous letters to AHCA with copies to various interested parties concerning the problems with Florida's Dental Medicaid Program. Unfortunately, there has been little positive response. There are three problem areas that urgently need to be addressed.

First: Most Florida dentists do not seem to be aware of the changes that have occurred in the way dental Medicaid is being administered. This is somewhat understandable, given the very low participation of Florida's dentists and the problems with the program. However, it does not mean that dental Medicaid is going to disappear! Quite the contrary. All indications are that the number of eligible recipients in Florida will increase substan-

tially. Many families that are now covered by private insurance and group plans will fall into eligibility for Medicaid. This means a substantial number of current private pay and insured patients will become Medicaid patients. This means there will be a severe disruption in the way a lot of practices function.

Second: The administration of dental Medicaid by DentaQuest and MCNA is a disaster. Denied payments, late payments, denied essential treatments, required preauthorization for routine pediatric dental procedures are just the beginning. The administrative costs in a solo practice are staggering.

Third: The dental profession, especially pediatric dentists, have no effective representation with either

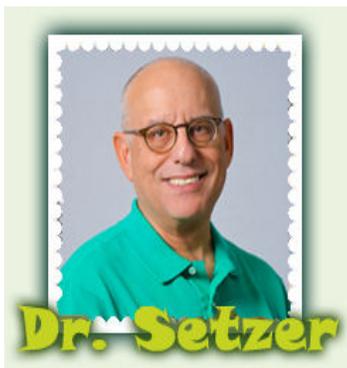
AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) or DentaQuest or MCNA. The contracts we must sign to participate have no real appeal process in the event of a dispute. Your only choice is to drop participation. Both administrative organizations say they have an "advisory board" but they do not have any real effect.

On July 7th, I met with Secretary Elizabeth Dudeck, head of AHCA and went over these issues. I also pointed out that both DentaQuest and MCNA appear to be inflating their figures concerning participating dentists. They have a vested interest in showing as many participating dentists as possible because their contracts call for 1 dentist per 1500 eligible patients.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY AHCA TO SUPPLY THEM WITH ANY NAMES OF PARTICIPATING DENTISTS ON THE WEB SITES THAT ARE NOT ACTUALLY PARTICIPATING!!! THIS IS IMPORTANT!!! If you are listed and not participating, or know of someone else listed but not participating PLEASE e-mail me with the name(s) ASAP at drelijr@aol.com. Additionally, if you are a provider and have experienced problems, PLEASE forward them to me. Thank you in advance for your efforts!

Congratulations to Dr. Eli White on being selected as the AAPD/FAPD Public Policy Advocate!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Recently, our very own FAPD member, Dr. Barry Setzer was honored by the FDA's Florida Dental Health Foundation with the 2013 Humanitarian Award for his 35 years of service to the Jacksonville Cleft Palate Clinic as their pediatric dentist. Congratulations to Dr. Setzer on this amazing accomplishment!

If you know of another deserving FAPD member who has made a valuable contribution to pediatric dentistry, send that information to our newsletter editor, Reza Ardan, at RezaHeel@aol.com.



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

Over the years, the FAPD Annual CE Course has grown into one of the best sources for pedo CE in the state. Each year has improved upon the year before, and this year is no exception.

We are privileged to welcome Dr. Catherine M. Flaitz as our speaker. Dr. Flaitz is renowned for her knowledge of pediatric oral lesions, and she is excited to impart her expertise to our members. This year's course promises to be especially interactive with an opportunity for members to bring their own cases to discuss with Dr. Flaitz. As has become customary, breakfast and lunch will be included with registration.

This year's course takes place at the beautiful Caribe Royale Hotel in Orlando where we have negotiated a great rate on their suites. For more information or to register, log onto our website, www.FAPD4Kids.org. See you there!!

AAPD ANNUAL SESSION

Florida played host to this year's AAPD Annual Session, and those that attended had a fantastic time. This year's meeting broke all previous attendance records and kudos go out to those members that volunteered to be on the Local Arrangements Committee. There are several items of note from this year's General session:

- ◆ Districts I and II have combined

FAPD ANNUAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

This year's meeting was a slight departure from the norm as it was held during the AAPD instead of the FNDC. The result was a fantastic turnout of new and old members! There were many topics covered during the free luncheon for members. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ We are at our highest membership number in several years and expect to see that number increase with the new FAPD initiatives and the new AAPD rules regarding membership.
- ◆ The FAPD is once again in a strong financial position.
- ◆ Dues were decreased by \$50.
- ◆ The Medicaid lawsuit has concluded, and we are still waiting for a final judge's ruling.

Save the Date!!

2013 FAPD CE Course

"A Roundup of Important Oral Lesions in Children: Diagnostic Tips and Treatment Approaches."

Catherine M. Flaitz, DDS, MS

Saturday, October 26, 2013

Caribe Royale Hotel

Orlando, Florida

- ◆ ADA membership is required at time of application to the AAPD only
- ◆ AAPD will cover the costs for states and districts to participate in its dues collection program
- ◆ Membership in your State and District pediatric organization is now **required** to maintain membership in the AAPD

- ◆ More efforts are going to be made to have a grassroots approach to legislative issues. Members are encouraged to volunteer for one of the FAPD committees.
- ◆ FAPD has been very active in working with the BOD in regards to changes in sedation rules.
- ◆ A lengthy discussion was had regarding the changes in Medicaid and the issues with MCNA and DentaQuest
- ◆ The FAPD Annual CE Course will be a great one featuring Dr. Catherine M. Flaitz lecturing on the "Therapeutic Management of Pediatric Oral Lesions."
- ◆ Dr. Gary Myers completed his successful term as President and the new Executive Board was installed (see page 1).

We are on the web!!

www.FAPD4Kids.org

**FLORIDA ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

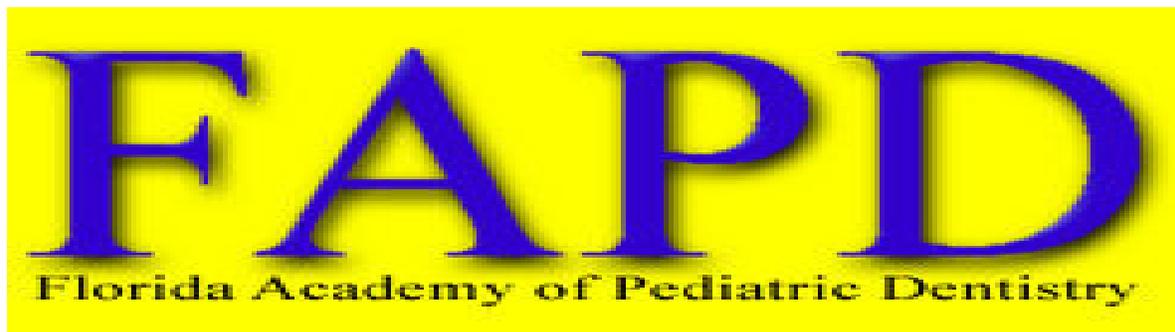
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For any questions or comments, please
contact FAPD President Dr. Nick White at
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NEXT BOD MEETING

November 15, 2013
Hilton University of Florida
1714 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 371-3600

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

"New and Improved!!" You see it all over the place. Whether it's on the TV, radio, newspaper or magazine, companies and products are always touting this fact. Well, I'm here to tell you that while the FAPD is not that new, we are definitely improved! Over the past few years, the FAPD has been focusing on its members. The FAPD has become fiscally strong, advocated for children, as well as practitioners, stood up for our right to remain autonomous, developed excellent continuing education and increased access to our members. Our organization is now on the precipice of truly being elite and that is where you come in. The groundwork has been set, and now we need for you to get involved. No matter how big or small you'd like your role to be, there is a spot for you. Contact us to see how you can help!