

the MIRROR



WISCONSIN
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

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2021 Edition 1

THE BOARD OF WISCONSIN AGD WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS

New Members

Andrea Emmerich
Taylor Lundquist
Brennan Schneider
Hannah Draver
Jose Joaquin Giraud
Molly Conlon
Geetha Ramani Muthukuri
Michael Tchida

Mary Llanas
Nomuhle Dube
Nicholas Miskulin
Diana Doyle
Ronald Jenard Moon
Paul Leeman
Neela Lalani

Student Members

Josephine Tokarev
Muhammad Abdalla Omari
Hala Afifa
Amanda Waddle

WiAGD Board Would Like To Thank Our Members

We would like to thank the following sponsors of New Members.

Dr. Curtis A. Kracht
Dr. Bart P. Knowles
Dr. Keith A. Ziolkowski

While not all of you have been acknowledged as sponsors, we know that many of you are sharing the benefits of membership in the AGD with your friends and colleagues. Your support of our organization is appreciated. Thank you.

Tooth Talk

As I write this at the end of 2020, I am sure all of you are looking forward to a fresh start in 2021 and hoping for a better year. As you know 2020 had a lot of surprises in it, most of them not very pleasant and some of them down right painful. I know all of you are already aware of both the personal and professional changes that resulted from the Covid virus, so I am just going to focus on an update of how the AGD/ WiAGD has been affected.

I hope all of you are aware of all the CE and Covid updates available through the AGD and have taken advantage of them. I think our professional organizations really rose to the challenge the virus was causing for their members.

The AGD House of Delegate Meeting is normally held in Chicago in Oct. This created a challenge for the staff to create a zoom type meeting for the delegates that allowed Robert's Rules of Order to be followed and would allow all delegates to be involved in discussions and voting. While there were some technical issues, and some frustration on the part of the delegates, overall the AGD staff deserve a pat on the back for getting this set up. Thank you to our delegates, Drs. Lou Boryc, Ed Batchelor, Ginny Scott, John Machi and Van Anh Le for attending. As a personal note, while this did work, I really missed the chance to talk and interact with other delegates and get their input and hope that by next Oct. we will be back to normal. Please refer to the AGD website for an update on the agenda and the results of the national election.

During the House of Delegates Meeting, our Region 9 elected new officers. Dr. Dennis Charnesky will now be our Regional Trustee and Dr. Lou Boryc will be our Regional Director. Thanks to both of these members for their dedication and support of the AGD.

During 2020 our President Dr. Boryc took on the challenge of updating our website. He has spent a lot of time researching several different options and we are hopeful that in 2021 we will have a new, easier to use, updated website for the WiAGD.

While the virus has put many things on hold or slowed them down, the efforts to pass a bill creating dental Midlevel Providers was not one of them. Dr. Chris Hansen has been very active at the legislative level on this issue, please read his article for more information on this. Since it appears that it is inevitable that a bill creating midlevel providers will be passed, we are hoping to at least minimize the damage this bill will create. Our President, Dr. Boryc became aware of a legislative grant available through the AGD for the support of a lobbyist at our state level. The WiAGD Board made a decision to hire a lobbyist on our behalf to address the issue of the Midlevel Providers. For the protection of our patients we hope we can influence the important issues of type and length of education requirements, the scope of their practice guidelines, and their supervision requirements. We feel that these important restrictions and regulations should be made with the input of general dentists. We are aware of the efforts of the WDA on this issue, but feel that the backing of our organization may influence or provide addition support for our concerns.

The other area affected by the Covid virus was our CE curriculum. Right off the bat, our March CE with Dr. Landswehr had to be cancelled. We thought we were safe in Oct, but only found out a couple of weeks before the date that the hotel was cancelling. Both of these events have been rescheduled for 2021, but at this time we are still not sure if we can do them live or possibly virtual. We have decided to list the dates and speakers so you can mark your calendars, but no definite plans will be announced at this time. Once the CE committee makes a decision we will e-blast the information out to all members on our list and will post the information on the website, www.WiAGD.org. The WiAGD continues to strongly support our goal of providing CE for our members. If you have questions of would like to help out the CE committee please contact Ginny Scott at ginnysdds@gmail.com or 608-697-4567.

I am not to sure what everyone's New Year resolutions will be this year, but I am wishing everyone a safe and healthy and happy New Year.

Ginny Scott, DDS, MAGD

A Message from the Regional Director

WOW!! Change is the only Constant.

As most of you know, I have been around the WI AGD a while. I see us as being in amazing times. There have been constants and constant changes. The last few seasons have just flown by with new challenges for all of us. The challenges to dental practice have never been more daunting. The virus, midlevel providers, legislation and a myriad of “normal challenges” present you with a lot of headaches.

Your WI Board has risen to work with and for you to address your needs.

We have testified before the committees of the WI Senate and House to represent your best interests on several issues.

We have declared a dues holiday.

We have put hours of organizational work into bringing quality CE to WI only to be told we can not hold meetings due to the third set of new rules.

We are revamping our WI AGD website to make it more user friendly. (We can use help with this.)

We have taken an historic step to hire a lobbying firm to help protect our patients and interests.

My long-time fellow board member and friend, Dr. John Olsen, ran a classy campaign for the national AGD presidency in a very rough and tumble fight. His past contributions and campaign have changed the AGD in a very positive manner. Thank you, John!

I was again elected to become the regional director for WI and MI. It will be a pleasure to reconnect to our colleagues in MI. They face many of the same issues we have been dealing with also. I hope to work closely with our new Trustee, Dr. Dennis Charnesky, to continue positive changes for our AGD and profession in general. I will serve you as a conduit of information and ideas regionally and nationally.

Advocacy and legislative action is in its infancy in WI. We are getting help from the national AGD office and a state lobbyist. The WI AGD can use your help. If you have a professional and/or personal relationship with any local, state or federal politician, YOU can be of help! Please contact me ASAP. We can discuss how little or much you would like to be involved with our efforts. EVERY member can help with as simple as signing on to an ACTION ALERT. Friends we all need to pull together. We all have different talents and time commitments, but you are needed and wanted in these efforts.

I thank you for your support during my presidency. I urge you to do the same for my friend Dr. Ginny Scott who is taking the reigns as the incoming president.

Please make sure we have your email address. Later in 2021 we will be soliciting your input for the direction of our WI AGD.

With gratitude and thanks,
Lou Boryc DDS FAGD louis.boryc@marquette.edu

We Did It Again

The WiAGD won for the second year in a row, the ACE Award for our outstanding newsletter. Not only did we receive the ACE Award, we also received Honorable Mention for Advocacy this year. Congratulations to our board members for a job well done.

From the desk of your Trustee for Region #9

Hello Wisconsin AGD

I greet you as the new Region 9 trustee. I hope that you had a most satisfying holiday season and that this year, 2021, is spectacular!

I certainly want to thank Dr John Olsen, who served before me, for his significant efforts. I hope to represent the Region as well as he did.

As you should already know, Region 9 has eliminated the state portion of the AGD dues for 2021. Wisconsin (and Michigan) will be waiving the local portion of the dues as a response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Every bit of savings is helpful for our prosperity. Please be sure to thank your Board for this ground-breaking step to aid in the state's dental recovery.

At the National level, the Academy is currently searching for a new Executive Director. Mr. Max Moses has served with distinction and has been an invaluable resource in the middle of the pandemic pandemonium. He is stepping down at the end of 2020. The search is progressing and hopefully a new Executive Director will be chosen soon.

The AGD staff has been working tirelessly to present webinars discussing everything from the shutdown, the uncertainties about reopening, the safety as well as current education topics. Many are (were) cutting edge. Kudos to the staff for their efforts. It was a bright spot this spring and summer during those darkest of times. These are mostly complementary for our members. Please check these out to augment your practice and continuing education needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Academy of General Dentistry.

Sincerely,
Dennis G Charnesky, DDS, MAGD
Trustee - Region 9

Protect your patients, protect your practice Wisconsin Advocacy

This bears repeating, "If you do not have a seat at the table, you are the meal!"

The WI AGD Board voted to hire a professional lobbying firm to help represent you and your patients. At this writing, we are finalizing that initiative. There are a number of legislative and regulatory issues affecting you, your patients and your practice. The WI Board and lobbyists can not effectively advocate for you alone. The more voices supporting the AGD's position, the more effective and powerful our message will be heard in Madison and locally.

Letting us know of your professional and/or personal relationship with any local, state or federal politician can help our efforts. A few minutes of your time can make a difference. As simple as signing on to an electronic ACTION ALERT will help. If you want a larger role, we have a variety roles for you. We can even use help behind the scenes with our IT needs. I would love to talk to you regarding these Advocacy Issues.

Lou Boryc WI AGD President
louis.boryc@marquette.edu

Wisconsin AGD Legislative Update

After a tumultuous campaign season of 2020, the Wisconsin legislature is set to begin the new session on January 14, 2021. Of concern to most Wisconsin AGD dentists are workforce issues revolving around the education and licensing of Midlevel Providers (MLP). Bills presented in the 2019-20 session in both the Assembly and Senate promoting Dental Therapy were stalled in committee and never came to a floor vote. Final passage of this legislation was blocked as result of lobbying efforts by the WDA in partnership with Marquette School of Dentistry and the Wisconsin AGD.

Our direct opposition on this issue for the last several sessions has come at a significant cost in political capital. By focusing on Dental Therapy (DT), we have lost the political initiative in other issues important to the profession. These include improving Medical Assistance (MA) reimbursement for dental services, expanding the Dental MA Pilot program, allowing training and licensing of Expanded Duty Dental Assistants (EFDA) and regulating some unfair practices by third party payors.

Currently, 12 states have legislation that allow MLPs in some version. In 2020, there was no new MLP legislation passed in the United States. This is in large part because of COVID and shortened legislative sessions nationwide. Nearly all mid-level provider practitioners are in Minnesota. Maine just got its first practicing dental therapist, years after passing their DT legislation.

Make no mistake, the Dental Therapy bill presented in 2019 authored by then Rep. Mary Felzkowski of Tomahawk is unacceptable as written. But the bill and this issue is not going away, and its primary author was recently elected to the State Senate and has been assigned to the very influential Joint Finance Committee. It is expected that this will be one of the first pieces of legislation that will be introduced after the new year.

The concept of Dental Therapy has the support of a coalition of over 50 influential stakeholders and has bipartisan support in the legislature. It is expected that our opposition wall will collapse under the pressure of this bill, meaning it will likely pass with or without organized dentistry's input. If dentistry's voice is not heard, the void will be filled with others with views that may not be in the best interest of dentistry or the oral health of our patients.

We need to be at the table to make a potential Dental Therapy bill better or without our input we risk that the broadest, most unregulated dental therapy bill in the nation may pass. Based on what happened in the last legislative session this was very close to becoming a reality. We need to incorporate common-sense provisions that other states have included to protect dentistry and at the same time craft the best possible bill for the people of Wisconsin.

Organized dentistry has not only suffered legislatively, but without being able to sponsor any meaningful reform or legislation in the last several years, our brand has been tarnished in the eyes of the Wisconsin state lawmakers. If we focus too much on the Dental Therapy issue, we run the risk of being unable to address important access and third-party payor policy issues for the foreseeable future. The focus needs to be on improving access to care to our most vulnerable patients and we cannot be seen as obstructing that aim. Any questions or comments feel free to contact me directly at cjhansendds@comcast.net.

Chris Hansen, DDS, FAGD

Legislative Chair, WiAGD



Thank You to Our Dental Frontline Heroes!

We want you to know that underneath all those layers of PPE, we see you!
 You amaze and inspire us with your determination and perseverance.
 We appreciate all you are doing to take care of your patients.
 We're humbled to be part of your dental teams.
Stay safe. Be strong. Keep smiling.



CONTINUING EDUCATION



Friday, March 5, 2021 - Dr. David Landwehr

**A Clinician's Method for Endodontic Success:
Predictability Through Simplicity**

WiAGD Member Benefit CE Course

Friday, July 16, 2021 - Dr. Jody Schilling

Peridontitis & Peri-Implantitis:

**How to Use the New Periodontal Guidelines to Improve
Diagnosis and Treatment Planning in Your Clinical Practice**

Friday, October 15, 2021 - Dr. Kevin Anderson

Financial Boot Camp: You Cannot Help but Get Rich....!

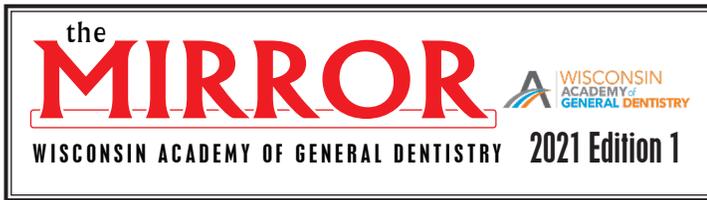
Follow our CE Schedule on our website.

www.WiAGD.org

Questions?

Contact Ginny Scott at ginnydds@gmail.com

or 608-697-4567



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Dr. Lou Boryc, President
Dr. Virginia Scott, Editor

News, story ideas and scientific articles
can be submitted to the above address
or ginnydds@gmail.com

The WiAGD Board Appreciates Dr. John Olsen's Dedication

Dr. Olsen joined the AGD in 1994 and became a board member at that time. He has served on various WiAGD committees since joining and became the WiAGD President in 2008. After serving his Presidential term, John became Region 9's Regional Director and in 2017 our Trustee. He has served on the national level as the Chair of the AGD Examinations Council and in 2019 received the Presidential Citation for Leadership and Commitment to the AGD. The WiAGD Board thanks Dr. Olsen for his dedication, support, and leadership as a WiAGD member.