



Newsletter of the Louisiana Academy of General Dentistry

1st Quarter 2009


The Pelican's Pouch

A Call to Action

General Dentistry as we know it today is under attack!

There are several major issues facing all of us as general dentists. One of the most troubling issues is the multi-faceted problem of the mid-level provider. The reasons for pushing for the creation of this type of dental care provider vary; because there are different types of mid-level providers being advanced, reasons depend upon certain groups' agendas. Some states and the American Dental Association (ADA) are proposing similar programs to solve what they perceive as a shortage of dentists. In reality, there is not a shortage of dentists, but a mal-distribution of them. While there is no doubt more dentists are needed in many rural and underprivileged areas, there is a corresponding need to develop more incentives for dentists to locate in these areas.

Alaska has already implemented the dental health aide therapist (DHAT), an initiative introduced by Alaska native tribal organizations. After a two-year training period in New Zealand, DHATs begin treating Natives with pulpotomies, restorations, stainless steel crowns, and extractions. The ADA has been working on the development of a Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) since 2006, with pilot programs in places such as Oklahoma slated to begin in early 2009. Additional funding for the CDHC program was pushed through the ADA House of Delegates in October 2008 with a potential cost to ADA members of \$5 million. In Oklahoma, Dental Hygienists oppose this plan because it may eliminate the creation and implementation of the mid-level



Academy of General Dentistry

Top 10 Things the AGD Does for Members

10. Discounted AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits
9. CE tracking on www.agd.org
8. AGD's Board Licensure Transcript
7. Fellowship and Mastership Awards
6. Networking Opportunities
5. Patient Education Resources
4. Free Managed Care Contract Review
3. *General Dentistry* and *AGD Impact*
2. Practice Management Assistance
1. Advocates exclusively for the general dentist

Removable Prosthodontics Seminar presented by Dr. Joseph Massad in March. See page 3 for details.

Continued on Page 2.

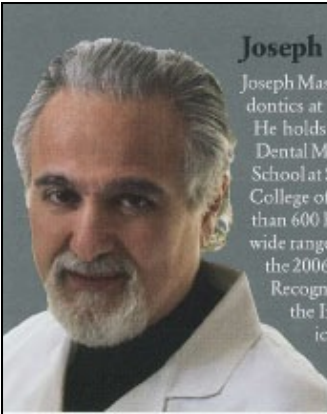
position developed by the American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA), the advanced dental hygiene practitioner (ADHP). Minnesota's legislature passed a bill requiring a workgroup to study and make suggestions on the implementation of a new position called the oral health practitioner (OHP). New Hampshire and Maine are among the other states that are looking into mid-level provider programs, including expanded practice for dental hygienists. Kansas, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania have all enacted legislation that allows dental hygienists to perform expanded duties provided they have the training to do so. One of the scary things about the proposals creating dental mid-level providers is that they will be allowed to do restorations, *simple* extractions and diagnoses. They are given these privileges because they are supposed to, in most proposals, be supervised by a general dentist (who does not even have to be in the same office) in case they encounter problems or situations they cannot handle. In particular, the ADHA advocates for the ADHP to be allowed to open a clinic on his or her own, without the supervision of a dentist. The ADHP also would be allowed to do simple procedures and to diagnose.

In some states, the oral surgeons and periodontists are pushing legislation to prevent general dentists from placing implants in patients' mouths without the training required of a specialist. The prosthodontists are also trying to get legislation that would only allow them to make and seat the crowns on implants. The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) published guidelines in 2005 stating periodontists should be co-managing almost all patients. It appears as though specialists are claiming that the general dentists are not the best qualified to perform these procedures.

The voice of the specialists is loud and strong because they stand united. The ADA seems to be controlled by specialists, and they have huge resources behind them to get their agendas through. The AGD is the ONLY voice solely dedicated to general dentists. It is more important now than ever before that we all recruit membership for the AGD and we must all stand united and strong to preserve general dentistry! Each member knows another dentist who is not a member of the AGD or who may be a member that is not active. You MUST convince your friends and colleagues how important it is to become members of the local chapter of the AGD and we must all stand together to fight these changes.

Scott C. Kogler DDS MAGD

MASTERTRAK 2009 will begin with a program on Digital Photography and PowerPoint presentations. Anyone interested can call or email Brenda Descant at (800) 277-8356, lagd@earthlink.net or Scott Kogler at (225) 621-2703, skogler@eatel.net.



Joseph Massad, DDS

Joseph Massad, DDS is the Director of Removable Prosthodontics at the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry in Arizona. He holds faculty positions at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston, the University of Texas Dental School at San Antonio, and the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has presented more than 600 lectures worldwide and published 50 articles in a wide range of scientific journals. Massad is the recipient of the 2006 Chicago Dental Society "Gordon J. Christensen Recognition Lecturer Award" and the 2008 Fellowship in the International Academy for Dental-Facial Esthetics. Massad is also a Fellow of the American and International College of Dentists.

Dr. Massad will present a great course entitled *Predictable Complete Dentures and Implant Over-Dentures* Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Holidome in Lafayette, Louisiana. The course will explain important aspects of complete removable dentures reloaded to include implant retained over-dentures. It will also address causes of unsuccessful cases. Dr. Massad will offer tips to prevent this from being a problem for you.

Objectives for the course are as follows:

Part 1: The Impressioning Phase

- Illustrate how to make impressions for totally, partially and immediate edentulous patients
- Illustrate how to make impressions for implant retained over-denture patients
- Describe a reline procedure for both edentulous and implant over-dentures
- Describe method of direct implant pick up

Part 2: The Registration and Delivery Phase

- Jaw Registrations: understand why jaw recordings utilizing a self-adjusting GAT device eliminates false registration
- Describe a method to deliver the final prosthesis that will eliminate post-operative adjustments
- Distinguish when to use a stud implant attachment versus a bar type attachment
- Evaluate a method of realigning implant abutments with a variety of different angles in vivo

Anyone interested in registering for this course should contact Brenda Descant at (800) 277-8356 or email her at lagd@earthlink.net.

LAGD Elects New Officers

A new slate of officers was elected during our Annual meeting on December 5, 2008. Our new president is Kay Jordan DDS FAGD who practices in Marrero, LA. She is a very dynamic individual who will continue to maintain the high standards of the LAGD. Joining Kay as her Vice President will be Scott Kogler DDS MAGD who practices in Gonzales, LA, John Portwood DDS MAGD will serve as our Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa Kogler will be editor of our Pelican's Pouch, and Brenda Descant will continue to be our excellent Executive Director.

Also on the LAGD Board of Directors will be Tony Guilbeau DDS MAGD serving as our CE Chair, Stephen Briscoe DDS FAGD serving as our Advanced Practice Chair/LSUSD Representative, and at large members include Jerry Tully DDS, Darlene Bassett DDS MAGD, Steven Brooksher DDS, and LSUSD Sophomore Michael Maher and LSUSD Junior Shane Brien. The LAGD Board members are elected for a two year term.

As a reminder, the AGD organization will hold its national meeting in Baltimore, MD this July 8-12, 2009. Our three House of Delegates voting members from Louisiana attending will be Kay Jordan DDS FAGD, Scott Kogler, DDS MAGD, and John Portwood DDS MAGD. I'm inviting all LAGD members to attend our premier meeting this summer for great CE courses and a terrific vacation.

Congratulations to all the Board Members who will continue to perform an excellent service to the LAGD.

Tony Guilbeau DDS MAGD

Anyone interested in serving on the Board for the LAGD should contact Brenda Descant at (800) 277-8356 or lagd@earthlink.net.

2008 National Conference of State Legislators

Tony Guilbeau and I attended the National Conference of State Legislatures on July 25, 2008 in New Orleans. We worked the AGD booth and discussed dental issues with many legislators from the United States. We were also there to answer some of their personal questions about dentistry. We met with several Louisiana state legislators, including Representative Joe Lopinto, Representative Jean Doerge, and Representative Elton Aubert. Dan Buska and Shelley Fratamico were also at the conference from the national AGD office. It was a great experience to visit one on one with the state legislators. I feel the AGD and dentistry was well represented at this conference.

Scott C. Kogler DDS MAGD



DID YOU KNOW?....Toothpaste is not a modern invention. As far back as 3000-5000 BC Egyptians made a mixture of powdered ashes of oxen hooves mixed with myrrh, burned egg shells, pumice and water that they applied to their teeth using chew sticks.

PRESIDENT'S GREETING.

As I begin my term as President of the LAGD, I first would like to thank Tony Guilbeau and the entire Board for taking such good care of this organization and for leading us out of the gloom of Katrina. Executive Director Brenda Descant has made sure that we continue to sponsor first-class continuing education courses by utilizing resources made available through the National AGD. Our constituent proudly accepted the Continuing Education Award of Excellence at last year's Annual Meeting in Orlando.

If you haven't already done so, please log on to AGD.org and take a tour of all the resources available to AGD dentists. Knowyourteeth.com is an entertaining new addition that offers a wealth of information for dentists and patients alike. You can also register on the AGD website for the 2009 Annual Meeting to be held in Baltimore July 8 through July 12. As an aside, during the Baltimore meeting, our own Region 12 Director, Mark Donald, will be running for Speaker of the House of Delegates. We hate to lose him as our Regional Director, but know that he will make a fantastic Speaker.

These next two years will be especially exciting for the LAGD and our entire Region 12 as we prepare to help host the 2010 Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans. We will be calling on volunteer dentists to assist in various activities as time grows near.

Finally, thanks to Scott and Melissa Kogler for putting together this professional and content-rich newsletter. They have spent many hours researching and developing it during their "spare" time!

Kay Jordan, DDS, FAGD

LAGD Annual Seminar

With Drs.Chiche and Radcliff

Your Louisiana AGD was the lucky recipient of an outstanding seminar courtesy of Drs. Jerry Chiche and Stephen Ratcliff in New Orleans December 5, 2008. The seminar was held at the Hilton Hotel near the airport which allowed for easy entry and exit.

Dr. Chiche certainly has a soft spot in his heart for the Louisiana Academy of General Dentistry as this seminar was his last in Louisiana before resigning from the LSUSD and moving out of state. I couldn't confirm exactly where he and his wife will be relocating. Since this was our premiere annual meeting, we were pleased to have such top speakers. Drs. Chiche and Ratcliff presented their topics in an alternating style, changing speakers about every hour. Dr. Chiche lectured on first class prosthetics while Dr. Ratcliff spoke on occlusion. Together these two gentlemen provided our group of over 40 participants a recipe for success when faced with difficult major cases which have to work synergistically from an esthetic and functional aspect.

Dr. Ratcliff hails from Florida as a former chair of education at the renowned Pankey Institute. He and Dr. Chiche formed a terrific team and provided our group with their best information. It goes without saying what a gem Dr. Chiche has been to our Dental community all these years; as a Helmer professor at LSUSD and head of the Prosthetics Department he has been a mentor to many of us. We will miss him dearly!

Tony Guilbeau DDS MAGD



Where are we headed financially?



One of the worst mistakes an investor can make is to attempt to time market bottoms. Invariably what happens is that the investor picks a bottom, or near bottom, when he/she pulls the trigger to get out of a position. Once the decision to get out of a particular position, or the market in general, is made, fear then grips the investor and the bounce back is missed until 20-25% gains have been made. The market may languish for awhile, but when the turn to the positive occurs, it usually is fast and furious and ultimately gets missed. Some investors don't come back to the market for many years out of fear that another collapse could happen. The million dollar question is, have we reached a point of capitulation when investors have thrown in the towel and have dumped all of their equity positions and given up. This usually marks a market bottom. Those that guess correctly will be rewarded greatly — those that don't will feel more pain for awhile. The reason that the word guess is underlined is that it is a guess and nobody knows for sure. I'm sure we have heard many media pundits and experts with their take on the problem and when it will be resolved. However, these are the same people that have been wrong all the way to this point and I see no reason to assume that lightning has struck them and they now are prescient with all of the correct answers. Therefore, we need to come up with a strategy to follow that fits our needs. There are several things that we do know:

- A long-term timeframe corrects most short-term mistakes in judgment. Warren Buffet recently remarked that although the market is in turmoil now, that we do know that in 10 years the market will be much greater, healthier, and at a higher level than it is now. What this tells us is that if we do not need our money for several years, it doesn't matter if our timing is perfect. In the long-term, if we buy at a discount, we will be rewarded. If our timeframe is short-term, we should proceed with caution since there is still uncertainty and volatility running rampant in the market..
- The stock market is a leading (as opposed to trailing) indicator with a lag time usually in the 4-6 month range. This means that the argument of when we are in a recession is moot because we will feel the pain from it in the markets before we feel it economically. The depth of our pain in the economy (not necessarily the stock market) is yet to come with a climax hopefully in the first half of 2009. This recession could possibly last a couple of years, but nobody knows for sure. This doesn't mean that the market will continue to drop, nor will it necessarily improve. It could thrash around this point for awhile.
- As I have stated in the past, "All ships rise and fall with the tide." There are some outstanding values out there right now that are being overly sold because of the market in general, but you must know the warts and be ever-so-careful of what you are buying. Individual securities can rise and fall much quicker than the market in general. The reason for the extreme selling over the past couple of months appears to have been due primarily to redemptions in mutual funds and hedge funds as their investors fled from equities. This is one reason that Bernie Madoff's ponzi scheme was finally discovered as redemptions caused his scheme to come unraveled. This is a stark difference to the usual culprit, decreased earnings reports, and explains the wild fluctuations at the end of the trading day. Remember that for the long-term, it is earnings that determine stock prices.

Continued on page 8 . . .

Where are we headed financially continued

- *International markets closely follow the U.S. This has been profoundly shown in the recent crisis. Although these international markets have gotten stronger over the years, it is still the U.S. that is the straw that stirs the drink. Until the domestic market rebounds, we cannot expect international markets to get better. Because of this, even though our own market is in terrible condition, we can expect the dollar to strengthen against most all currencies until, oddly enough, our own economy strengthens. When that happens, our dollar should begin to lose value against foreign currencies.*
- *Bond yields are at historical lows. This means that as interest rates begin to rise, the value of any bonds purchased now will go down in value. The only bonds to look at now are ultra-short 3-month bills for liquidity.*
- *The credit crisis will take some time to resolve. We still truly don't know how deep the rabbit hole goes. Recent legislation (bailouts) and coordinated worldwide interest rate cuts are onerous, but essential, in stabilizing the market. However, they may only be a band-aid in stopping the blood-bath. It will take time to tell. In the meantime, we still must deal with faulty collateralized mortgage obligations, derivatives coming due without guidance as to their actual values, and near frozen credit access. This leads to other assumptions:*
 - a. *The housing market will remain depressed for some time. Due to deteriorating economic conditions, both commercial and retail markets in addition to the residential market look shaky also. REITs may be good for the long-term, but it will take a while for short-term improvement.*
 - b. *For the short-term nobody knows what is going to happen.*
 - c. *Fixed interest rate products will probably remain low for the foreseeable future in order to stimulate economic growth.*
 - d. *With all of the bailouts and stimulus packages, inflation may soon become a worry. We can only print so much money without repercussions. One fear is that we are now creating a second liquidity bubble that could be worse than the one we created in 2000.*

With this said, let us now begin to look at our positions, both now and in the future. I would recommend that for the short-term, begin to get back into the market slowly and carefully. Defensive stocks with good dividends, such as Procter and Gamble, are conservative plays. Although a company may pay a dividend that is very high, one must determine if it is sustainable. For the long-term, most companies that provides a product that will be needed will be a good buy. If that company is well positioned and well managed, yet beaten down price wise, it might be appropriate to buy now. Consider buying mutual funds or ETFs that mimic the S&P 400. It is undervalued at this point and long-term results should be excellent. Again, be careful if your timeframe is short.



John Portwood DDS MAGD

EDITORIAL

Last year was a roller coaster to say the least — Gasoline prices skyrocketed, hurricanes ravaged our state (for the 2nd time in three years!), the economic downturn was enough to make anyone sick, and the uncertainty of a new administration coming into Washington was enough to cause stress for anyone. But, I have noticed something really special about dentists. They look out for each other and have a close-knit, family-like bond. Without mentioning names, I'm going to tell you what I mean.

I'm sure this has been going on long before now, but I began to really take notice a few years ago. It all began with Katrina. When Katrina destroyed so many lives in New Orleans, Mississippi and Alabama, people all over the country came to our rescue and aid. People right here in Louisiana also stepped up to the box and pitched in to help. These people, however, were never recognized by the national media and probably weren't even noticed by their neighbors for their part in helping. I'm talking about the local dentists who offered displaced dentists a place to practice while they were away from their homes and offices. They helped their fellow dentists find their patients that may have evacuated to the local area and gave them office space to work in.

When the LSU Dental School needed to find a place to help displaced dental students continue their education, a temporary school and clinic was set up in Baton Rouge. Once again, local dentists in private practice came forward and volunteered their time to help in the newly created temporary clinic. Then when it was time for the seniors to take their boards, several dentists in the Baton Rouge area set up screenings to help students find patients.

This was all great, but it didn't end there. I noticed when Gustav devastated Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas, again dentists were looking out for each other. Dentists whose offices had power restored were offering space to work to other dentists who were still without power at their offices. I also know of a dentist who became ill and had to be out of his office for an extended period. Two other dentists volunteered their time one or two afternoons a week to see patients in the office of the dentist who was ill so his office could remain open and productive. Dentists in the Baton Rouge and Gonzales areas also volunteer their time and services through the Greater Baton Rouge Community Clinic to help the working poor receive good dental care. All of this generosity and genuine caring is wonderful and refreshing in a world so full of selfish, greedy people.

While at the AGD Leadership Conference in Chicago last November, I also learned how generous dentists all over the country are toward other people. Many told about the programs they are part of to volunteer time and services to the underprivileged. I know most people don't know anything about this, and I know the dentists who give so generously of their time and talents don't want recognition for any of these things, but I think at the very least you all deserve a big heartfelt THANK YOU. Our world is a better place because of you!

Melissa Kogler

If you would like to contribute and article for the next newsletter, please email Scott Kogler at skogler@eatel.net.

AGD Leadership Conference

The AGD held a Leadership Conference in Chicago last November. In attendance from the Louisiana AGD were Kay Jordan DDS FAGD, Scott Kogler DDS MAGD, and Melissa Kogler. All three attended several classes learning how to better serve the constituents of the LAGD and how to work more effectively for the AGD overall. The weather was damp and cold, but it was still a great time of learning and fellowship with other dentists and AGD personnel from all over the United States and Canada.



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2009 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For more information:
Call us toll-free: 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368)
Or join online: www.agd.org

Code: _____

Referral Information

If you were referred to the AGD by a current member, please note information below:

Member's Name _____

City, State/Province, or Federal Services Branch _____

Member Information

First Name	MI	Last Name	Designation (i.e. DDS, DMD, BDS)	Informal Name (if applicable)
Do you currently hold a valid U.S./Canadian dental license? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				<input type="text"/> /____/____
License Number	State/Province	Date Received	(mm/yyyy)	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Required for access to the AGD Web site

If you are not in general practice, please indicate your specialty: _____

Current practice environment: (Check one) Solo Associateship Group Practice Hospital Resident

Faculty

Institution _____

Federal Services

Branch _____

Contact Information

Your AGD constituent is determined by your business address, unless one is not available.

PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT:

E-mail Mail Phone

PREFERRED BILLING/MAILING ADDRESS:

Business Home

Business Address	City	State/Province	ZIP/Postal Code
Name of Business (If applicable)	Phone	Fax	
Home Address	City	State/Province	ZIP/Postal Code
Phone	Primary E-mail	Web site Address	

Educational Information

ARE YOU A GRADUATE OF AN ACCREDITED* U.S./CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOL? Yes No Currently Enrolled

Dental School _____

Graduation Date (mm/yyyy) /____

Are you a graduate of an accredited* U.S. or Canadian post-doctoral program? Yes No Currently Enrolled

*Official accreditation is given by CODA in the U.S. and CDAC in Canada.

Post-doctoral Institution _____ to _____
Begin Date (mm/dd/yyyy) End Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

** Accredited AEGD or GPR residencies qualify for the resident membership rate. Official proof of enrollment must be provided to AGD.

Optional Information

GENDER Male Female

ETHNICITY American Indian Asian African-American Hispanic Caucasian Other _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US? AGD Member (please indicate information in the referral box) AGD Web site AGD Constituent

Newsletter Advertisement Mailing Dental Meeting Other _____

AGD HEADQUARTER DUES

Please check membership type applying for:

- Active General Dentist.....\$347
- Associate (Specialist).....\$347
- Dental Student*.....\$16

*Students do not pay AGD Constituent dues.

- 2008/09 Graduate/Current Resident...\$70
- 2007 Graduate.....\$139
- 2006 Graduate.....\$208
- 2005 Graduate.....\$278
- Affiliate.....\$174

AGD Headquarter Dues (See above rates) \$ _____

Louisiana Constituent Dues (See above rates)..... \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed..... \$ _____

LOUISIANA AGD CONSTITUENT DUES

Please check membership type applying for:

- Active General Dentist/Associate.....\$48
- 2008/09 Graduate.....\$10
- Retired.....\$10

Payment Information

Promotional Code (If applicable) _____

VISA MasterCard American Express
 Check (Enclosed) Diners Club Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. _____

Please print the name as it appears on the card.

I hereby certify that all the information I have provided on this application is correct, and by remitting dues to the AGD, agree to all terms of membership.

Signature _____

Return this application with your payment to:
Academy of General Dentistry, 211 East Chicago Avenue,
Suite 900, Chicago, IL, 60611-1999
For credit card payments, fax to: 312.335.3443

Individuals joining between July 1 and Sept. 30 pay half the annual headquarters membership dues (does not apply to student, resident, or first year graduate members). Individuals joining Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 will have dues applied through the end of 2010.

The Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 requires that the AGD notify you that 1.2 percent of your membership dues payment is not deductible as a business expense because it is allocable to lobbying activities of the organization. For more information, please check with your tax advisor.

Dues rates effective until 10/01/09. Contact the AGD or visit www.agd.org for updated rates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Seminars: Dr. Joseph Massad in Lafayette March 27, 2009
Lecturing on Predictable Complete Dentures & Implant Over Dentures

Dr. Eugene Antenucci in Baton Rouge December 11, 2009
A CAD CAM course sponsored by Sirona

Register for the AGD National Meeting to be held in Baltimore, Maryland July 8-12, 2009.

Remember the 2010 AGD National Meeting will be held in New Orleans in July 2010. If you'd like to help with this meeting, please contact Kay Jordan.

Pass along the AGD membership application to your friends and colleagues who are not yet members of our organization.