



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE FALL 2020

Dear Members and Colleagues:

I hope this Fall 2020 edition of the VDDS Newsletter finds you in good health, interested in the news it shares, and looking forward to the improved future it welcomes. I think it is hard to imagine the months of May through August feeling longer and more challenging than the ones we have experienced since our last newsletter in this time of COVID-19. I'm here to tell you that regardless of how you no doubt felt at various times, you have persevered, created, and serviced our communities and your families, in so many ways that are foundational to the good health of our Valley. Please do not minimize what you and organized dentistry are accomplishing in the face of this pandemic.

Please note that all our communications, whether directly from VDDS and our committees, or ADA and MDS communiques, will be digital for the foreseeable future and all Education courses will be virtual and without cost, at least until the Yankee Dental Congress. We are especially fortunate during this time, as noted by our illustrious treasurer, Dr. Jonathan Sudol in his financial report, that our well managed reserve fund will be used to benefit all our members.

While this newsletter will share quite recent information, you can expect to receive various communications throughout the year where I and the Executive committee will keep us informed as to how we take care of ourselves and how we are benefited by organized dentistry. We welcome your feedback throughout the year with letters or opinion pieces. As you know, since May so much valuable information has been shared about the best practices necessary to navigate this summer. In creating the VDDS COVID-19 task force, under the leadership of Chair Dr. Christopher DeSesa and reported on within this newsletter, we want to make the most useful and effective expertise available to every member.

With everything being held virtually for the remainder of the year, our newly expanded Education Committee, now comprised of Drs. M. Caban, B. Falk and B. Larkum, leads the way with creative flexibility to provide excellent education opportunities. Our new local initiative asks any and all of you who are interested to become part of our "Speakers Bureau" and individually, or in a Forum setting, present to our membership and beyond.

We have constituted our VDDS Nominations Committee under the leadership of our Chair-elect Dr. Andrea Fallon within the new MDS Governance structure, and we are committed to bringing new voices and ideas to the forefront of the Valley. Please contact me or her directly to nominate yourself, or someone you think highly of, throughout the year. Our connections to the Pioneer Valley Women Dentists with co-chairs Drs. E. Perry and S. Keller and the Hampshire Dental Society with Chair Dr. C. Steed have also promoted varied and more inclusive conversations about all that affects our dental community.

In the coming months, we have distinct plans to reach out to many non-member dentists who may not yet appreciate or even know about all the benefits which membership brings. Free membership for new and "lapsed" dentists beginning Oct. 1st also brings with it the opportunity for free registration to the Yankee Congress during early registration which runs from October 1-12, 2020. This fall and winter we plan to have even more connection to all three counties in our District given increased opportunity with virtual contact.

Within this newsletter you will find many involved colleagues you no doubt know well. Please feel free to contact me, or any one of our Executive Committee members with a question, comment or idea. We have all seen the value of working together and taking the high road in benefiting our communities. Today maybe more than ever, the positive perceptions we have earned will keep dentistry in the esteemed position it deserves going forward.



Locally, we have advocated for a few items recently. Many of you did not receive refunds from Brown Paper Tickets for the courses canceled due to the pandemic. We have reached out to members and to Brown Paper Tickets. For the very few of you who still have difficulty dealing with BPT, we recommend contesting the charge with your credit card company and they will make sure that you receive your refund. If, for some reason, you are still having difficulty please contact me mwohl@comcast.net or our intrepid Executive Secretary Amy Brookes at valleydistrictdental@gmail.com. Unfortunately, Drs. V. Mariano, J. Maslowski and my attempts at creating an alternative to the dental assistant program closing at STCC, by and partnering with their Dental Hygiene Department, have been slowed by the internal workings of the College. We will continue to explore what is possible with them, but on the job training (OJT) for dental assistants is still available in accordance with BOIRD regulations which you can access here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-dental-assistant-license>. We welcome any of your thoughts and insights. In addition, as many of you know, I recently wrote a letter expanding the message that the Springfield Republican had represented on August 23, 2020. I feel that we should take every opportunity to share with our communities who we are and continue to highlight and raise Dentistry's profile. It is fair, accurate, and in the interest of all involved.

We are regularly informed of the latest and greatest (that he can share) by our intrepid MDS Trustee Dr. James Maslowski who with our undying gratitude is now completing the last year of his two term 6 year commitment as Trustee for the Valley. Thank you Jim!

Last, but not least, please don't forget to register and join us virtually for our Annual General Meeting and MDS President Visitation on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:30 pm. MDS President Dr. Mary Jane Hanlon will join us with an update on the important activities MDS is working on to benefit all of us. Here is the link to register:

<https://massdental.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYodOCtpzotHdcw68Yonj96emWSb7wVwY-o>

Although I will be unable to purchase a drink for you, this meeting is without charge to you. With all we've gone through these past several months, come hear Dr. Hanlon and help us show our gratitude, ask her a question, or suggest what else organized dentistry should be doing. Come hear what is happening in our neighborhoods and, of course, vote on the business of the Valley District. Thank you for all you do!

In appreciation,

Marty

Martin A. Wohl, DDS

Chair, Valley District Dental Society

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee for Continuing Education has re-scheduled the cancelled lectures from this past spring due to the Coronavirus pandemic to fall 2020/winter 2021. We anticipate a very exciting year that will help you fulfill your entire CE credits right here in the Valley. Please review the schedule and mark your calendars so that you can participate in learning the latest techniques to employ in your dental practice from the comfort of your office or home computer. Dr. Paul Feuerstein will present remotely via Zoom "Technology in Dentistry Today" on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. There will be no charge for this course. We plan to kick-off 2021 with a full day restorative dentistry course by Dr. Joyce Bassett who will lecture about "Aesthetics Built to Last: The Synergy of Esthetics and Function in All Ceramic and Composite Applications" on March 19, 2021. In addition, the committee will also plan two early evening lectures in the spring 2021. The timing of these courses will allow you to work, attend CE event and begin to implement some of your recently learned pearls of wisdom immediately the next day. Some of the topics will include: A discussion of "Dental Corporate Takeover - Employed vs. Independent Doctors: Which Path Is Right for You?" and "Inspired Hygiene – Elevating your hygiene service, systems and profits". The speakers and venues may change from year to year; however, the best quality CE courses will continue in the Valley. The locations are convenient and the fees are reasonable which provides a great benefit to you during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please make every effort to attend these valuable courses. Bring your clinical assistants and key staff and enjoy the day with your peers, as well as, support dental education here in Western Massachusetts. We plan to see all of you there or at least on the computer monitor!

Dr. Benjamin Falk,

Chairperson – Education Committee

HAMPSHIRE DENTAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Heading into the fall The Hampshire Dental Society will be resuming our gatherings once again albeit using the Zoom format. The small educational and social gatherings that have defined Hampshire will hopefully resume in person in the not too distant future and I think we all look forward to sharing that time together. The fall session will likely be limited to two lectures, the first of which took place on Tuesday, September 8 with Dr. Ben Farr of CVOS speaking on PRP/PRF and its uses for surgical soft tissue and bone grafting procedures. Attendance for the first meeting was excellent with about 30 of our colleagues present and we thank Dr. Farr for a wonderful presentation. The date for the second lecture has yet to be set and participation in the first meeting of the session will be used to help gauge whether to add a third lecture in late fall/early winter. We may also consider adding some opportunities/meetings for folks to gather and simply catch up, discuss cases or practice challenges in the collaborative way that often happened before past Hampshire meetings. At this time and considering the virtual format, there will be no charge for the Hampshire meetings and any changes to this approach will be made on a meeting to meeting basis. The Hampshire Dental Society has often been a venue where colleagues from our community of medical and dental providers have had an opportunity to present and enrich our educational experiences in the valley. We invite any and all to attend and look forward to seeing you (virtually) there!

All the Best This Fall,

Chris Steed DDS
President, Hampshire Dental Society

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The activity of the MDS is best highlighted by visiting the Mass Dental website.

One of the prime endeavors is the selection of a new Executive Director with the unexpected passing of our former director, Conor McNulty. The search committee was formed and is once again under the direction of Dr. David Lustbader. There is active communication with our selection firm, and it would appear, if all goes well, that there might be a selection sometime this Spring. Dr. Robert Boose has assumed the role as interim director.

The annual Yankee Dental Congress is pursuing a goal of having a meeting live and in person beginning January 28, 2021. Currently there are no alternative plans. The Convention Center is to open in Phase 4 of the State plan, so that will determine our direction in a possible virtual option. The Covid-19 crisis is still a central issue and the MDS is in constant communication with the ADA and appropriate health agencies in the State to provide information on policies and procedures.

The ADA meeting in Orlando is being held virtually as well as the House of Delegates commencing on October 14, 2020.

Going forward, the MDS executive meetings and Trustee's meetings will all be virtual. The present plan is to have a bi-weekly Trustee meeting until the beginning of 2021. Be Safe.

Respectfully submitted,
James Maslowski, DMD
Trustee, Valley

COVID-19 TASK FORCE REPORT

This past July we developed our very own COVID-19 Task Force. We understand these are difficult times, and with the ever-changing array of various protocols, guidelines, and literature it is not always easy to know where to turn to for the most up-to-date information. Therefore, we put together this task force with the goal of streamlining important information to our members and to create a central hub for all your COVID-19-related questions. This task force is being led by Dr. Christopher DeSesa and is composed of several other leaders within our society; Dr. Ivy Ahluwalia, Dr. Jonathan Sudol, and Dr. Carina Wohl. Please email your COVID-19 related questions to vddscovidtaskforce@gmail.com and our task force will be happy to research your inquiry and respond to you in a timely manner. Take Care and Stay Safe!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Covid-19 has created significant challenges to all facets of our members lives. A year ago, none of us suspected we would be faced with decisions on what PPE is necessary, how to bring staff back from furlough, or how to see patients and have them feel safe. Many of us created budgets to guide expenses through the upcoming year, only to have to start from scratch when the pandemic took hold. These same issues have plagued the Valley District leadership and have affected the budget from last year and will have an impact on the budget this year.

To compare the 2019/20 cycle to the projected 2020/21 cycle in this report would be misleading and inappropriate, creating more questions than answers. This is a result of physical and social distancing policies prohibiting the meetings that we would normally have, and the resultant changes in expenses and income. The base finances for the 2019/20 cycle showed expenses of \$66,302 and normal income (dues, meetings) of \$61,302 for a loss of (\$4,353). This was offset by investment income of \$5,019 for a net gain of \$666.

Looking ahead, the current budget takes into account the social and physical distancing requirements to prevent the spread of the virus. Meetings this fall will be virtual, at no cost to Valley District members, with the hope to resume in-person meetings after January 1, 2021. The Valley will be sponsoring the Winter General Meeting in January 2021 at no cost to members, as a benefit to all as we "re-engage". As such, the projected expenses for the functions throughout the year is \$70,600, with expected income of \$48,00 for a net shortfall of \$22,600. This is in agreement with MDS guidance to utilize investment accounts for the benefit of all members.

If there are questions regarding the projected budget for 2020/21 cycle or last year's budget, I will be glad to discuss them with you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan C. Sudol, DMD
Treasurer
Valley District Dental Society

DENTAL CONNECTIONS

September 29th and November 4th

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during this crazy time for all of us!

As you may be aware, we are not able to hold large gatherings until after the Yankee Dental Congress in the spring. Instead, we have been able to schedule two virtual meetings for the fall in conjunction with the MDS that will provide continuing education credits for those that attend.

We are also pleased to announce that in light of the pandemic we are waiving all fees associated with these meetings and will be providing them at no cost to you.

On Tuesday, September 29th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Dr. Steve Sobel will present a course titled "Creating an Extraordinary Future for You, Your Patients, and Your Family." This should be a fun and informative meeting through Zoom and I urge all of you to attend.

On Wednesday, November 4th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Dr. Howard Pactovis will give an OSHA and Infection Control Update relative to COVID-19 including state and federal guidelines and recommendations.

E-mail messages will be going out with registration information 3-4 weeks prior to each course.

Please sign up early as space is limited.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Mike Caban, D.M.D., M.S.

VDDS Dental Connections Chairperson

PIONEER VALLEY WOMEN DENTISTS REPORT

The Pioneer Valley Women Dentists is a local resource for advancing, connecting, and enriching the lives of women dentists. We serve our members by offering a variety of educational programs and social networking events that benefit the special needs of the busy woman dentist. Our group continues to be active despite the inability to meet in person and has provided an active online resource for support and discussion through our online social media platforms. Especially in the past several months, this has been an excellent way for women dentists across the Valley to communicate and converse about these changing times.

On May 6th for our spring meeting, we were honored to have ADA Executive Director Dr. Kathy O'Loughlin join us for a special presentation, "Updates on COVID-19 and Dentistry". Also present were MDS President Dr. Mary Jane Hanlon MDS Immediate Past President Dr. Janis Moriarty. Dr. O'Loughlin provided the most recent updates on protocols directly from the ADA and we enjoyed a lively discussion with our members and leaders of the MDS.

Please mark your calendars for our fall meeting on Friday, October 9th. On the agenda for the evening will be "Wines by Women", a themed virtual wine tasting hosted by Michael Quinlan of Table and Vine. Immediately following will be a group presentation "Our Future is Now - Women in Leadership and Organized Dentistry". More information to follow!

We always welcome new members. If you are interested in joining our group, please let us know at drperry@perryendo.com or drsuekeller@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Shin Perry, D.M.D.
Sue Keller, D.M.D., Co-Chairs
Pioneer Valley Women Dentists

VDDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair, Dr. Martin A. Wohl, mwohl@comcast.net

Chair-Elect, Dr. Andrea C. Fallon, afallondmd@gmail.com

Secretary, Dr. Christopher R. DeSesa, christopher.desesa@gmail.com

Treasurer, Dr. Jonathan C. Sudol, jcsudoldmd@hotmail.com

Trustee, Dr. James E. Maslowski, toothmaz@aol.com

Education Chair, Dr. Benjamin H. Falk, DrBen@floencedental.com

Dental Connections Chair, Dr. Michael D. Caban, mdcaban@gmail.com

Social Committee Chair, Dr. Christopher R. DeSesa, christopher.desesa@gmail.com

Executive Board At-Large Members: Dr. Ivy Ahluwalia, drivy@perryendo.com

Dr. Justine Karanian, justine.karanian@gmail.com

Dr. Elizabeth G. Larkum, elizabethgboig@gmail.com

MDS Delegates: Dr. Martin A. Wohl, mwohl@comcast.net

Dr. Carina L. Wohl, carinawohl@gmail.com

Dr. Justine Karanian, justine.karanian@gmail.com

Dr. Elizabeth Shin Perry, drperry@perryendo.com

Annual Guest Members: Dr. Vincent J. Mariano, Immediate Past Chair, drmariano@emadental.com

Dr. Christopher W. Steed, Chair, Hampshire Dental Society, cwsteed17@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE / MDS FOUNDATION

Our plans for community service have certainly been altered since March. As you know, our scheduled May Community Dental Day was canceled and, unfortunately, there is no reason to expect STCC and the VDDS to be able to manage one in November as previously projected. Hopefully, a Community Dental Day can be organized in April, 2021 as we continue to provide for refugees through the Springfield Catholic Charities/United Way of Hampshire County/Smith College Welcome Home Northampton Fund.

This year as the new United Way Campaigns again start up you will hear how Franklin and Hampshire Counties will be combining forces to provide more comprehensive resources in their United efforts. As you would imagine, the needs are greater just as we donors are more challenged. I am hopeful that you will still be able to give as generously as possible.

Valley's donations to the MDS Foundation this year were quite significant and enabled us to reach the Morton Society lifetime giving level. The Foundation's next meeting is Wednesday September 23, 2020 and the expectation is that applications will be reviewed, but the deadline will be extended, and final grants will be awarded soon after. As you are no doubt aware, it has played a significant role in aiding all members as well as our communities. Please consider donating to the Foundation in your annual giving plans.

Beacon Hill Day has been rescheduled to April 14, 2021, in person, and at the present time it is not clear whether we will be able to host our Legislator's Night or have legislators visit our offices as we did last Spring. Stay tuned.

Please consider contributing even \$10 to the MDS PAC. Of course, the dollar amount matters, but more importantly the numbers of donors is what continues to strengthen our voice and certainly judging by this year, we can see the value it brings.

Thank you for all you do,

Martin A. Wohl, DDS
Chair, Community Service
MDS Foundation board member

VDDS FALL 2020 CALENDAR

Due to COVID-19 restrictions all courses and meetings this fall will be virtual and free of charge to all members!

Fall Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 6:30PM

<https://massdental.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYodOCtpzotHdcw68Yonj96emWSb7wVwY-o>

Dental Connections: Dr. Steve Sobel *"Creating an Extraordinary Future for You, Your Patients, and Your Family"*

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dental Connections: Dr. Howard Pactovis *"OSHA and Infection Control Update with Relevant COVID-19 Precautions"*

Education Course: Dr. Paul Feuerstein, *"Technology in Dentistry Today"*

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

VDDS Winter General Meeting: January 21, 2021

MDS House of Delegates: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Yankee Dental Congress: January 28-31, 2021

**Remember: If you register for the
Yankee Dental Congress between
October 1-12th registration is
FREE!**



Valley District Dental Society

P.O. Box 37

East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Don't forget to register for our Annual General Meeting and MDS President Visitation on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30 pm!

You can register by clicking the link below:

<https://massdental.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYodOCtpzotHdcw68Yonj96emWSb7wVwY-o>

We hope to see everyone there!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

During these uncertain times, planning a social event is quite a challenge. Nevertheless, depending on the state of the pandemic, we will try to host our annual Winter Extravaganza which includes a ride through Bright Nights at Forest Park in a Peter Pan bus complete with refreshments, and hot chocolate, followed by a tour of the Festival of Trees at the MassMutual Center. While this may not be possible, we will look forward to the spring to hold our first wine tasting event complete with live music and games at Black Birch Vineyard in North Hatfield, MA.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Christopher DeSesa,
Social Committee Chairperson



**Remember to
check your email
for important mes-
sages and updates
from the VDDS and
MDS!**