



**Fall 2013**

# Maine AGD E-Newsletter

## The Golden Age of Dentistry

When I began dentistry, 33 years ago, I first heard of The Golden Age of Dentistry. It was, at that time, considered to be the generation that preceded me, because it was the generation of high speed drill, penicillin, initiation of fluoride and prevention, and a time of respect and economic prosperity for the profession.

Looking back over what my generation had available I can't help but personally believe that The Golden Age of Dentistry was in my generation. We had true prevention so as not to have to deal often with squirmy kids having cavities. We had Lidocaine and Artocaine which was far superior to Novocaine (I had to use it once and it didn't work well). The list can go on with technology and I am appreciative that the professional economic prosperity was more than I could ever have expected.

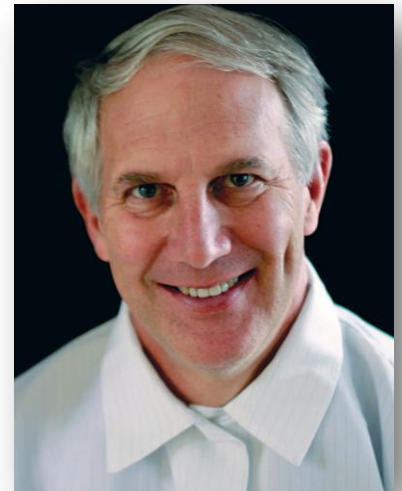
What will the next 33 years hold for our profession with regards to technology and restoring smiles?

I only wish that I could practice for another 33 years as the "tools" of our profession will be amazing! The latest round in Maine, with the mid level provider, has given a little insight that the respect we once had may be slightly tarnished as there was a perception of the dentist being greedy and unwilling to serve the underserved. That was one of the most frustrating aspects of speaking with our representatives as they just didn't get how the State of Maine's mishandling of Medicaid and mistreatment of dentists has created the lack of Medicaid participation by dentists. The MDA has documented and presented well, the tremendous amount of community service we provide in no cost/reduced cost dentistry for our patients.

The professional future, with regards to respect and economics is cloudy in my mind, for my daughter (who is my partner), and my grandchildren (we start early recruiting). Obama Care will definitely have a negative impact on us by dramatically affecting our present dental insurance structure. We are already seeing the beginning of these changes.

I will have Hillary keep this article (electronically, of course) and only hope that she may be editor at age 60 and write a positive completion to this story.

The story only has possibilities of being positive though, with our positive action over the next 30 years.



**Daniel L. Steinke, DDS, MAGD**  
Managing Editor





Dr. Hillary S. Caruso

# A Message from the President

Hillary S. Caruso, DMD, FAGD

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## Membership Has Its Privileges

This is the trademark of American Express. It is one of my favorite marketing catchphrases, because such a simple phrase conveys so much. This same statement could be the trademark for the Academy of General Dentistry (if our marketing budget was as big as American Express) as it also holds true for your membership in the AGD.

### *Why is it a privilege to be an AGD Dentist?*

- Membership puts you in a community of dentists who are passionate about their profession.
- AGD Dentists have a strong commitment to continuing education.
- AGD Dentists are devoted to protecting, preserving and ensuring the highest level of care for their patients, now and in the future.

Nationally, there are many other benefits that I think most members are not aware of. From patient referral, personalized assistance on insurance contracts, discounts on services and products and more! Check it out on [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org).

Locally, as you read through this newsletter, you will see what Maine AGD has been doing for its members and for the profession within the state.

I, and other Maine A.G.D. Board members, have been working closely with the Maine Dental Association leadership to continue an organized fight on LD 1230. We will continue to ask you to stay engaged and active in this process. We need to continue to have conversations with our Senators and Representatives inside and outside of the Capitol (talk to them while they are in your dental chair – they are a captive audience!). We are the experts in oral care – not someone with one quarter of our education, and certainly not an employee of an outside Foundation! We want the best for our patients, and for the people of our state.

We have been portrayed as greedy dentists who only look to keep a cash cow going. Therefore, it is as equally important that we are illustrating what dentists are doing to provide care to the underserved. Keep track of dentistry you donate and report it to the Maine Dental Association. Get involved in *Give Kids a Smile Day*, donate time and exams to Head Start. Be part of the solution!

It is currently one of the most critical periods in the history of our profession to be involved and engaged in organized dentistry. I can't say enough about the work the Maine Dental Association has done on its members' behalf. As 100% of Maine A.G.D. members are also M.D.A. members, this is a situation of "We are they, and they are us".

We must continue to move forward together.



# Maine AGD

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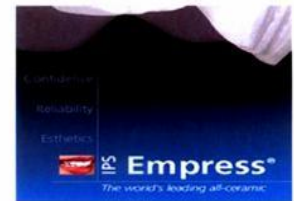
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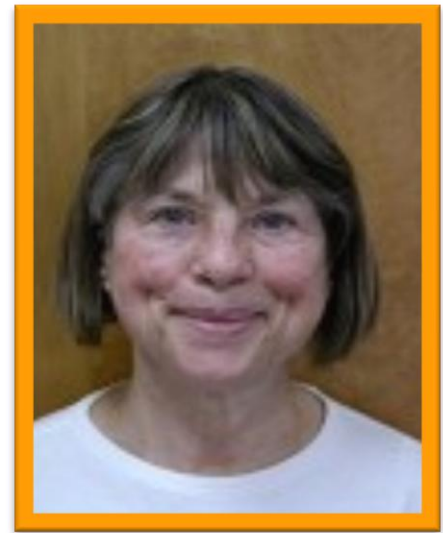
# *Greetings Fellow Colleagues...*

## **A Biography from Dr. Bettina Laidley Regional Director – Region 1**

I am partially retired from general practice and enjoying the time that allowed me to move my youngest daughter, Phoebe, into St. Michael's College in Colchester Vt. as a freshman this year.

My oldest daughter, Belinda is a fourth year osteopathic physician student at NOVA Southeastern Univ. in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

I bet you were thinking that not very serious things went on in Ft. Lauderdale, eh?



**Bettina Laidley, DMD, FAGD**

I graduated from Emmanuel College with a BA in Biology/Chemistry and engaged in Tooth Transplantation Research at Harvard Dental for a year while applying to Dental School.

I was admitted to Tufts University Dental when women were either an experiment or a target. I am still not sure how the three female students survived but we did. Not only did we survive but we excelled.

Upon graduation, I joined the USPHS Indian Health Service and was stationed as a young Lieutenant on the Navajo Reservation in Gallup, New Mexico. These were 2 awesome years and I learned and enjoyed a lot. After my term was completed, I returned to the Northeast and was an associate of two Maine dentists who were mentors and friends from my Tufts rotations as a junior student so I have a special place for Maine in my memory bank.

I then married and settled down in various places until Vermont became my home. I have practiced here for 35 years and been involved in the Continuing Education arm of the Vermont Dental Society.

I am a proponent of Lifelong Learning and have been a member of AGD since my graduation in 1972. There, I said it.

I received my Fellowship and began Mastership Track under June Lee's colossal and rewarding efforts to enable us as Fellows to find the participation courses we required to move forward and bring that passion and information to our practices.

My greatest joy has been the camaraderie I have enjoyed as President of the Vermont State AGD for the last few years and I look forward to the education of a lifetime from my fellow Region 1 Members as RD.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of AGD.

*Bettina Laidley DMD FAGD*





## Upcoming Course – Direct Posterior Composites

University of New England College of Dental Medicine

716 Stevens Avenue, Portland, Maine 04102

Course to be held in the state-of-the-art Simulation Clinic

Saturday, October 12, 2013 • 9am – 3pm



**Dr. Gerard Kugel**

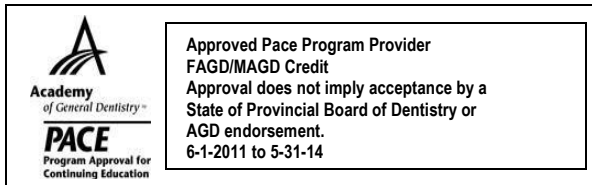
**Dr. Gerard Kugel, D.M.D., M.S., Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine**

Speaker, Dr. Gerard Kugel has an expertise in Clinical Research and Esthetic Dentistry and is a reviewer for The New England Journal of Medicine, JADA, The Journal of Dental Materials, and the Journal of Dentistry. He is on the Editorial Board of the Journal Esthetics & Restorative Dentistry, The Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry and Compendium and is Editor-in-Chief of Inside Dentistry. He is a Fellow in the American and International Colleges of Dentistry as well as the Academy of General Dentistry and the Academy of Dental Materials.

Dr. Kugel is on the Board of Directors of the CRA Foundation and has his M.S. in Anatomy and Cellular Biology and his Ph.D. in Dental Materials. He received his Executive Certificate in Management from the MIT Sloan School of Business in 2009. Dr. Kugel has published over 120 articles and over 200 abstracts in the field of restorative materials and techniques. He has given over 300 lectures, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Kugel is part of a group practice, the Boston Center for Oral Health, located in Back Bay, Boston.

### Course Information:

Course participants will learn about the latest techniques and materials for accurate and predictable direct resin placement including current views on bonding agents. Dental simulators will be used to provide a great hands-on experience.



**Course Fees:**  
**\$350 for AGD Members**  
**\$450 for Non AGD Members**



### Registration Form - Direct Posterior Composites

University of New England College of Dental Medicine, 716 Stevens Avenue, Portland, ME

Saturday, October 12, 2013 • 9am to 3pm

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Enroll Me: \_\_\_\_\_ AGD Member \$350 \_\_\_\_\_ Non AGD Member \$450 \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Please send this registration, along with check (no credit cards, please) payable to:  
Maine AGD, c/o Dr. Wietecha & Vayanos, 98 Silver Street, Waterville, ME 04901  
Questions? Contact Dr. Wietecha & Vayanos, 207-873-2073 or [ecdentistry@hotmail.com](mailto:ecdentistry@hotmail.com)



*Save the Date!*  
*"Learn at the Loaf"*  
*Feb 28-March 2, 2014*  
*at Sugarloaf Mountain*

## **Continuing Education 2012/2013~The Tradition Continues**

**Hillary Caruso, DMD, FAGD ~ Past CE Chair**

Last year Maine A.G.D. was able to continue the tradition of holding hands on C.E with nationally known speakers.

**December 15, 2012**

Dr. Gerard Chiche spoke at the University of New England Westbrook Campus on Interactive Treatment for Anterior Esthetics. This was a follow up to his lecture the previous day for the Maine Dental Association. The attendees, who included both general dentists and specialists, utilized x-rays, models and photographs to review past cases of Dr. Chiche. The conversation was spirited and much was learned, as Dr. Chiche was humble enough to share his less successful cases along with some of his very successful cases.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

Dentists took to the slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain for our Annual "Learn At The Loaf" Meeting! This year's speaker was Scott McMillen of National Dentex Corporation. His lectures covered a variety of topics including ceramic choices, the comparison of stock vs. custom abutments, and common errors in lab communication. The weekend was finished off with our second annual Maine Craft Beer Tasting and Ice Cream Social.

**April 20, 2013**

April 20<sup>th</sup> found another set of Maine dentists becoming certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support. This program, held yearly at Southern Maine Community College and specifically for dentists, is a wonderful way to not only obtain certification in a supportive environment, but it also works as a great review of management of medical emergencies. Held annually in the spring, this is always a sold out course.

**April 27, 2013**

On April 27<sup>th</sup> Dr. Gary DeWood was the speaker for a hands-on course held in Portland. Like Dr. Chiche, his was a follow up to his large lecture the previous day for the Maine Dental Association. This course, "The Art Of The Exam – Muscles, Joints, Teeth – And The Person They Are Connected To" walked participants through all parts of a comprehensive exam and moved towards utilization and fabrication of an anterior bite appliance.

***The Maine Academy of General Dentistry continues to be grateful to work with the Maine Dental Association in bringing great speakers to our state to provide informative, affordable hands on courses. You don't have to travel out of state for great continuing education. It is right here in our own backyard!***

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## ***Featured Member Benefit...*** **Help with Insurance Contracts**



The AGD's Contract Assistance Program, "*The Fine Point*", is available to all members. AGD experts will discuss your contract with you and identify potentially harmful clauses. For example, clauses that may require you to cover costs incurred by the insurance company or information within the contract that may allow the insurance company to decide whether the services you render to your patient are necessary.

If you have a contract that you would like to discuss with an AGD expert, please contact Sridhar Varadarajan, Director, Dental Practice Advocacy at 1-888-243-3368, EXT 4973 or [advocacy@agd.org](mailto:advocacy@agd.org).



**Dr. Amy Fuller**

## *A Message from the Legislative Chair*

It has been an amazingly busy year for organized dentistry. Even if you have been paying attention, there is no doubt that you still are not sure what is happening. Most of us know that the UNE College of Dental Medicine is up and running with it's first class of students. From what I have heard, all involved are very excited and things are going very well for a road never traveled before.

It seems that there are several of these kinds of roads in front of general dentistry these days. There are some who are trying to change the makeup of the Board of Dental Examiners or at least establish a separate board for hygienists. LD1230 still looms before us in the upcoming legislative session - this is the mid-level provider bill that would allow RDHs to drill, fill and extract teeth on children. There are a few more items out there for the legislature to mull over.

*But there is good news...* The Maine AGD and the MDA are working together to come up with meaningful legislation that will make sense and be effective and not cost a whole ton of money for the tax payers. The other good news is that general dentists like us can actually make a difference in the discussion, but you have to come to the table! Don't let this opportunity to enhance the way we practice go by without talking to your state representatives and letting them know where you stand on the issues. Educate yourself by reading the newsletters sent out by the MDA and calling the MDA officers when you have questions. If we all stick together, we can make a difference.

The Maine AGD is also making headway on starting a student organization at UNE College of Dental Medicine. We are planning on a reception later this fall in Portland to welcome the students and to introduce them to this great organization. We will emphasize the importance of life-long learning for a strong and fulfilling career and we can be there to mentor them throughout their education. Most importantly, as we are seeing now, we can help them to become a strong voice for general dentistry in the face of the ever increasing political pressure on our profession. This is our chance to recruit young general dentists to stay and practice in this great state by forging new and lasting relationships.

Hopefully, as a member of the Maine AGD, you too can embrace this idea and join in as we move ahead with these plans. Stay in touch through our new and improved web site or call anyone of your board members for additional information about what is happening in general dentistry today.



*Amy Fuller, DDS  
Immediate Past President  
Legislative Chair  
Maine Delegate to the HOD 2013*