

The Federalist

*** FROM THE NATIONAL TRUSTEE ***

Greetings, Teammates!!! Can you believe we are almost three months into the new year and its almost the beginning of spring? The AGD had yet another successful Annual Meeting in November reviewing and implementing policy changes that continue to affect our profession as general dentists. The Academy installed and welcomed our



new President, Dr. Hans Guter, as he delivered an electrifying address bringing back a sense of family and encouraging leaders to help move the organization forward. At the conclusion of the last HOD session, the AGD Board held its first board meeting and approved new council and committee appointments for the new year. Your Region 17 leadership team was well represented at the HOD!



Our AGD Board meets virtually on a regular basis to address opportunities and explore solutions impacting the field of general dentistry. In January seven AGD councils met in Tampa for a joint meeting and collaborated on initiatives to advance the strategic goals of our Academy. During the meeting I served as a Board Liaison to the Dental Education Council and was truly impressed with the amount of work this council has done to bring more educational opportunities to support lifelong learning. As a member of our Academy for the past 15 years, I noticed most of the work in AGD is performed at the council and committee level. If you are interested in being

a part of this change, look for an upcoming email requesting volunteers for future appointments. The AGD needs you! The Board will conduct its second in-person meeting later this month in Savannah, March 24-25. Simultaneously at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston, the Association of Army Dentistry and Army Dental Corps will dedicate a bronze sculpture depicting a dental officer, dental assistant and patient in a field setting – highlighting the mission of Army Dentistry, caring for Soldiers in any location, at any time. If you are in the local area, please come out to support this historic event and tribute.

AGD's Scientific Session, the premier meeting for general dentistry, is returning to Caesars Palace Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, July 19-22. Due to COVID-19, our last meeting scheduled in Las Vegas was held virtually. If you haven't signed up for courses, registration is still open as they fill up quickly. This year the Academy will offer the virtual package including eight lecture courses through a livestream. Region 17 members continue the tradition for serving as speakers for the Summer Fellowship Review Course occurring during the meeting. In addition, many of our federal service members will receive their Fellowship, Mastership and LLSR awards at this year's Convocation. This will be a meeting you don't want to miss so register today.

In November, the AGD sent a letter to the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services requesting the Chief Dental Officers of each military branch have two-star or higher rank and that this requirement be included in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Maintaining proper oral health care is vital to the readiness of all military branches and is essential to conserving the fighting strength by maintaining force health protection. Oral health care is essential to sustaining combat power on the battlefield and needs to be an equal priority to all other aspects of military health care. As done in the past, AGD is no stranger to proposing this type of legislation and remains at the forefront of advocating general dentists. Consisting of over 40,000 members, our Academy continues to be a strong supporter of its military and federal service members who dedicate their service to our great Nation.

As always thanks for your commitment and dedication to our Academy, profession and country. It is a great time serve when we are needed the most.

LTC Demarcio Reed, USA, DC

*** Regional Director's Comments ***

Greetings from San Antonio,



Your AGD Region 17 leadership has been very busy behind the scenes. In November, we represented our Region at the AGD House of Delegates in Chicago and then had our Region Caucus meeting. At the House of Delegates, your Constituency leadership represents all of you by voting on different policies and

initiatives that directly impact our clinical practice and profession. They also have a vote in deciding who will lead the AGD.

At the Caucus meeting, our Region 17 leaders meet to review the past year and then to strategically plan for the future. At last year's Caucus, we made the strategic decision to centralize more efforts at the Region level since our constituencies are not "geographic" like other regions. For instance, the Texas Region has distinct constituencies that comprise Austin, San Antonio, etc., for example. With our Region, we understand our members are worldwide. For those reasons, we decided to centralize our continuing education platform to the Region. Leading this effort is Kate Chiodo and our Executive Director, Martin Smallidge. We've added Google Suites and look to expand our CE offering in the next year. We are also looking to support Tri-Service events, AEGD graduations, short courses, and any other events where our members can meet. The constituencies and their work will continue to be the foundation of Region 17, but we hope to provide a better infrastructure to support our members at the Region level.

I hope everyone was able to read the December issue of *AGD Impact* article, "My Workday is Not What You Would Think: Options Abound for Military Dentists." While we've had many articles highlighting military dental deployments, our objective was to highlight the other facets of our military dental practice and service with a focus on the educational opportunities, dental research, technology and our overall focus on providing superior

high quality, evidence-based care. I thank our highlighted members who contributed to this article.

Finally, I would like to make a push for everyone to attend the AGD Annual Scientific Scientific this July in Las Vegas. Along with the terrific AGD CE, we plan to have several Region 17 events for our members. Each constituency may have break-out events and the Air Force will be organizing this year's Social. I look forward to meeting everyone in Vegas! Thank you for your membership in the Academy of General Dentistry.

With appreciation,

Col Amar Kosaraju, USAF, DC

Region 17 Executive Director (non-active duty)

Position Available

This would be an ideal position for a military retiree (but not necessary) who would like to stay more connected with Region 17 and the AGD by providing leadership and administrative support at the region level. The position requires about 5 hours of work per week and will be supported with a small stipend. This person will be supported with a trip to the AGD House of Delegates meeting in November. The ED may be funded to the Scientific Session in the summer or other meetings, as needed. For more information, please contact Col Kosaraju at: rd17amar@gmail.com.

REGION 17 DIRECTORY

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The Army Generalist News



LTC Jim Giesen

President's Message

Hello Army AGD Members! I hope the temperatures are starting to warm up where you are, and you are having thoughts of spring break and perhaps some spring cleaning around your office.

Great things continue to

happen for Army AGD members in 2023! Registration is now open for the upcoming AGD Scientific Session July 19-22 at Caesar's Palace in sunny Las Vegas! Make plans now to obtain high-quality continuing education and connect with colleagues at this year's gathering. Additionally, if you are unable to travel in person for the session, the AGD is once again offering a virtual lecture package totaling 24 credit hours. Details on course offerings, as well as government discounts for lodging, can be found at www.agd.org/agd-meeting. Early Bird registration is available until May 1st. As always, the Army AGD will host its Breakout session on Friday evening following classes. Here we will welcome and install our newly elected constituency officers, as well as recognize this year's Fellows and Masters, and hear from an Army Dental Corps senior leader.

I'm pleased to announce the Army AGD has joined efforts with the other federal services and AGD Region 17 to offer joint continuing education events. Now all military and federal service members can take advantage of free monthly CE options, as well as learn from a larger pool of speakers. Truly, our constituencies are combining efforts to offer the best products for our members. Be sure to follow 'Academy of General Dentistry Region 17' on Facebook for the latest CE event announcements. We will also continue to advertise these upcoming events and registration links on our own Facebook and Instagram pages as well. These events are in addition to the Army AGD library which our members can continue to

utilize to earn lecture hours on their own time. Visit www.armyagd.org to view the online lectures. Take advantage of these CE offerings to help augment what your DENTACs, local study clubs, and units may be offering!

In other news, Army AGD officers gathered to take part in the annual AGD House of Delegates in Chicago this past November. During the constituency awards ceremony, we were honored to take home not only the Federal Services Constituency of the Year Award, but also the Richard Knowlton Award for Continuing Education, the Public Information Award, and the ACE Award for our communications! Thank you to all those who helped contribute efforts toward earning these awards. During the business meeting, I was honored to represent Region 17 and sit on one of the reference committee panels, where I really saw organized dentistry in action! After hearing resolutions discussed and debated, I worked with the executive panel members to offer voting recommendations to the larger House members. It was fascinating to see the behind-the-scenes work that is done to keep the AGD operating. The national AGD greatly values the experience and knowledge of its military and federal service members, and I am glad we are allowed to participate in these functions as trusted members.

Finally, for those Comprehensive Dentistry residents that will be taking their board certification exams this spring, the AGD Fellowship Exam is a great way to test your dental knowledge prior to taking these board exams. This was a way I personally prepared for the written board, and it helped me gauge where I was in terms of feeling confident for the board exam. For those members who are interested, check out www.agd.org to learn how to take the test.

As always, if you are interested in volunteering with the Army AGD, please reach out at president@armyagd.org. Thank you to those who are helping spread the word about the Army AGD and have a great spring!



The Navy Masthead News



CDR Jared Geller

President's Message

Greeting Navy Dental Corps and Region 17 colleagues:

As we start a new calendar year, your Navy Constituency continues to work hard to advance the mission of our organization and ensure

we are providing exceptional value to our members. Thank you for your membership, and I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new members!

On the CE front, our collaboration with colleagues across Region 17 has been tremendously productive and the live and on-demand content is better and more accessible than it's ever been. Do yourself a favor and check out what's available on the Region's Google Classroom. If you're having a hard time finding it (we're working on that), here's the link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTI3NDk5NDI2NjMz?cjc=h6is6pn>

Beyond the abundant CE offerings that our Constituency and Region have sponsored, we have taken an active role in supporting local events in areas where we have high concentrations of member dentists (and future member dentists!). Specifically, we provided over \$200 in sponsorship for a social outing in Beaufort, SC. Additionally, we, along with the Army AGD and Air Force AGD, will be sponsoring breakfast and refreshments for attendees of the 66th Tri-Service Dental Conference in Okinawa at the end February. This wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of our recently named Regional Champions, and I especially want to thank LT Juwan Rice and LT Jonathan Sankman for their vision and initiative.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events: 1) Annual Business Meeting, April 19th

at 1800 CST (virtual attendance) and 2) AGD Scientific Session, July 19-22 in Las Vegas!

As we gear up for promotion board season, some of you may be looking for leadership opportunities outside of your Departments, Commands and Regions. Participating in organized dentistry is an excellent way to demonstrate leadership at an international, tri-service level. Besides that, it's a great way to meet and network with other officers within the Navy Dental Corps. If you are a little unsure if you have the qualifications, please reach out to me to discuss your interests and skillsets, and I assure you I can find a way for you contribute with whatever time you have to offer. Specifically, we have the following positions that are vacant or will be vacant in the near future: **President-Elect, Regional Champions, Membership Chair, Public Affairs Officer, and Chair of the Region 17 CE Committee.**

To close, I want to reiterate our Constituency's mission and vision. If we're missing the mark or coming up short, please let us know how we can improve: ***"The Navy Constituency of the Academy of General Dentistry connects its members to a broad network of Federal Services dentists and provides access to high-quality, cost-effective continuing education and unique opportunities for professional growth and career advancement."***

In order to stay abreast of all our ***free*** CE offerings and other activities, please be sure you follow us on our social media platforms: "Navy AGD" group on Facebook and "navyagd_constituency" on Instagram.

Finally, I want to again express my gratitude for your dedication, professionalism and meaningful contributions as a Navy Dentist. I am proud to serve, and especially proud to serve with all of you.



The Air Force Flyer



Lt Col Chris Jordan

President's Message

Greetings AF AGD Members:

Dentists are driven and motivated individuals. It's just in our nature to build, compete, and seek new opportunities and connections. Whether in private practice or a military clinic, we take on various leadership roles and support our teams in overcoming challenges and reaching goals. While promotions and performance reports are usually not our primary focus areas, we care about our career and our legacy, and we work hard to achieve success.

In July 2015, I deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. It was a fantastic experience and allowed me to put both my leadership skills and clinical training to use. Our small clinic provided care to 12,000 service members stationed there. We supported Operations Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel, and I learned a lot about how joint expeditionary missions work. When I returned home, I had a renewed sense of patriotism, but also confidence that I was ready to take on more responsibility.

This is my last column for *The Federalist*. My term as President will be coming to an end this summer. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience serving this organization over the past eight years. I have been reflecting on the years since I first volunteered to run for Secretary and real-

ized that it's been half of my career! After completing my residency training and board certification, I wanted to contribute to this great organization and help pay forward some of the support that had been given to me. We dedicate ourselves to the things we value and set strategic goals so that we leave a patient, a clinic, or a unit better than we found it. This chapter works to improve and enhance your experience as an Air Force dentist. I am immensely grateful to have had the support of many mentors and leaders over the years. Dr. Grabowski and his team will continue to serve you well.

The AGD mission is centered around Leadership, Education, and Advocacy, but it really has been FUN! I love that we get opportunities to meet and socialize with the members and leaders from other branches, travel to the Scientific Sessions, and build life-long relationships. Will you join us in Las Vegas? Step forward and get involved! You'll be glad you did!

Cheers!



VA-AGD Stars And Stripes

Serving Those Who Have Sacrificed For Our Freedom



Dr. Thomas Dundon

President's Message

Good day VA AGD Region 17 Colleagues:

The AGD House of Delegates (HOD) meeting was held in Chicago, November 11-13, 2022. Secretary/

Treasurer for VA/Region 17, Dr. Farhana Khan, attended the HOD in Chicago representing VA AGD. Dr. Farhana Khan is a staff dentist and Deputy GPR Program Director at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. The overall goal of HOD was to collaborate among constituents in the AGD. Also, Region 17 Federal Services sought to plan continuing education for AGD Region 17. In 2023, AGD Region 17 plans to have 10 monthly webinars. Also, constituents were encouraged to hand out challenge coins to residents to recruit new members. Next, constituents can sponsor scholarships for the AGD Fellowship Review Course. Each constituency will fund the president and treasurer for the annual AGD Scientific Session to be held this year in Las Vegas. Next, Region 17 planned on improving the Google Suite as an edu-

cational and administrative resource platform to create better communication. Finally, the constituents attended the town hall meeting in the morning which was then followed by the Region 17 Caucus. Sunday, the House of Delegates meeting concluded in the afternoon.

As of January 23, 2023, there were 85 members from the VA in AGD Region 17. Recently, Dr. Chung Lei-Kao, DDS, MAGD, was appointed Continuing Education Committee representative for VA AGD Region 17 Constituency.

The VA AGD is dedicated to serving the needs of the VA general dentist through advocacy, online CE, podcasts, and AGD publications. Lifelong professional growth through Fellowship and Mastership distinguishes VA general dentists. Please recommend membership in AGD to your VA general dentist peers as our organization continually strives to better the education of our member general dentists. The leadership team looks forward to continued growth and quality of education in VA general dentists. We are looking forward to a successful AGD Scientific Session at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas in July 2023.

Thank you.



The Public Health Service News



CDR Ryan Gard

President's Message

Greetings everyone; welcome to 2023! I hope you all had a restful holiday season. The annual 2022 House of Delegates governance session concluded

this November in Chicago. There were elections for a couple executive positions on the ballot this year and I would like to share the results. For the Vice President position Dr. Chethan Chetty was elected and for the Treasurer position, Dr. Joseph Picone was elected. Congratulations to you both and we look forward to your leadership!

At the House of Delegates conference, the Region 17 Constituencies had productive meetings to discuss how we can bring value to our constituency members. Our major goal is to provide members with a robust schedule of webinar continuing education events for 2023. We have conducted two fantastic webinars thus far; “What’s the Malocclusion Again?” and an “Oral Surgery Mini-Symposium.” Thank you to our volunteer speakers and to those that attended. Region 17 is always looking for qualified speakers for future CE events, please reach out to me if you are interested.

Several new members joined our ranks recently and I would like to formally rec-

ognize them: Dr. Annie Ledoux of Los Angeles, California; Dr. Shannon Osland of Sault St. Marie, Michigan; Dr. Fanney Pereyra of Brooklyn, New York; Dr. Kevin Ramos of Ferndale, Michigan; Dr. Jatin Arora of Stockton, California; Dr. Akinlolu Jegede of San Bernardino, California and Dr. Sonal Kapoor of Shawnee, Kansas. I encourage you all to learn about the AGD Fellowship Award. The requirements and application process can be found on the AGD website. Distinguish yourself professionally and show your commitment to attaining quality continuing education. Only six percent of dentists have earned AGD Fellowship status. I achieved Fellowship status a few years ago and it was fulfilling process.

The AGD 2023 Scientific Session is quickly approaching; please mark your calendars. The Scientific Session will be held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas from July 19-22. Course registration is now open, and the full schedule is available for review right now. Region 17 is planning their Social—a great place for our dental constituencies to meet and network. If you plan to attend the meeting, please send me an email so we can connect.

I stated this in the previous *Federalist* newsletter but feel it is important to reiterate. Please join the PHS AGD Facebook group or connect with me at phsagd@gmail.com. I want to ensure that our constituency members are aware of future continuing education events. Thank you for your continued support of the Academy of General Dentistry.



Royal Canadian Dental Corps Newsletter



LCol Joel Doucette

Royal Canadian Dental Corps Message

Greetings from Canada! I wish to take this opportunity to update readers on the accreditation status of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps (RCDC) within the Canadian Forces Health Services

(CFHS) and convey the importance and benefits of accreditation in general. The RCDC was accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada following evaluation in 2018-19 and continues to maintain that status through the submission of annual reviews and reports. In addition, Accreditation Canada (an independent, non-profit, external organization) assessed the RCDC concurrently with the medical branch against system and service excellence requirements that included validation against standards of excellence, interviews with care teams, interviewing patients and stakeholders across the organization and walking through multiple care delivery processes. CFHS received accredited status once again from Accreditation Canada.

Why is accreditation important? Simply put, it demonstrates an organization's commitment to quality improvement by participating in a continuous assessment program against evidence-based standards and practices to ensure the organization is staying up to date with the evolving changing healthcare industry and providing safe, high-quality care.

Through the standards of excellence provided within the accreditation program, it assists organizations in identifying risks and gaps in care delivery programs and processes and provides guidance and recommendations on how to mitigate those risks/gaps in order to reach or maintain a high standard of safe care delivery. When the

standards are applied broadly across an organization such as federal services dentistry, the accreditation process enables standardization along the continuum of care resulting in overall greater patient satisfaction and staff satisfaction because it means no matter where the CAF patient seeks dental care in a military dental clinic, the care should be delivered in the same high quality, standardized manner.

Patients have individual perspectives and expectations regarding what quality care looks like. From that perspective and facilitated by the requirements of the accreditation program, CFHS is embracing the person-partnered care approach and moving towards embedding this approach into all levels and aspects of care delivery in the organization. It is important to understand the fundamentals of the person-partnered care approach do not only include the patient making decisions and participating in their own care, but it broadens out to include the patient having a critical role in establishing health policy and programs. Using this approach, the patient builds their knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their own health, it helps build strong relationships between the patient and the health care provider in order to take part in shared decision making and allows opportunity for the patients to identify improvements in their care.

In summary, accreditation is a driver to help facilitate organizations journey of continuous quality improvement and patient safety. It promotes an organizational culture that focuses on promoting a non-punitive reporting culture to encourage reporting of errors, enhance communication across care teams and contribute to lessons learned to improve overall operational efficiency and reduce patient safety incidents and/or adverse events in the healthcare environment. Throughout the above continuum, my involvement in the accreditation process at both the higher HQ and clinic levels has been a meaningful and enlightening experience which has provided an additional perspective enabling the prioritization of quality improvement activities and mitigating risks within the organization. I encourage all of you to explore and participate in care delivery accreditation processes if given the opportunity in the future.



E-mail change?

PCS or other move?

It is very important that you contact AGD when your E-mail address changes and/or you move. This will ensure that you receive your AGD publications and *The Federalist* newsletter in a timely fashion. Prompt notification also saves Region 17 and National AGD the cost of additional mailings.

You can make changes with AGD in one of several ways. You can call AGD's membership department at **1-888-AGD-DENT**, send an e-mail to membership@agd.org, update your profile on www.agd.org, or send your changes to **AGD, 560 W. Lake St., 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60661-6600**. Be sure to include your member number and specify the Federal Service to which you belong. This will help prevent AGD from transferring you from your Federal Service constituent to the constituent of the state to which you are moving. It is **not** necessary to send changes to Region 17.

If you have any difficulties with your address change, send an e-mail to: martinsmallidge@gmail.com or call (315) 725-3473.

Thank you!

