



WEST COAST
DISTRICT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

CHECKUP

West Coast District Dental Association News • Spring 2024



Travel + CE + Networking

WCDDA PRESIDENT'S TRIPS
OFFER CAMARADERIE & FUN

SERVICE

COMMITMENT

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

IN THIS ISSUE: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • SUMMER MEETING • REPORTS FROM EVENTS • AFFILIATE FUN



Membership Matters — Just Ask an Optometrist

Optometrists in Florida were almost stripped of the title Doctor they earned in school by non-doctor entities. The same will happen to the dentists, too, if we continue to sit back and think that someone else will be advocating for us.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Lance A. Karp, DMD

It has been an honor to serve as President of the West Coast District Dental Association this year. I have truly enjoyed meeting and working together with so many wonderful colleagues throughout our district. As you have heard me say many times: together we can achieve more than any one of us can alone. Organized dentistry should have several appealing aspects to every single licensed dentist in the state of Florida (and nation too). There is something for everyone. I urge you to look into the multitude of benefits that organized dentistry has to offer. If you are already involved, I thank you for your continued service.

On the local level, our affiliate (county) dental associations are a wonderful way to be and become involved. Each affiliate has a dedicated and hard working executive board responsible for local events and programming. Almost monthly, there is an organized continuing education lecture taking place probably within a short drive from your home or office. Most of you reading this likely already participate, and I urge those of you who haven't to do so. Encourage your colleagues to become involved as well. Everyone will agree that these evening dinner meetings are a fantastic way to earn quality continuing education, enjoy a wonderful dinner, and mingle with dynamic colleagues. Contact me directly or the West Coast office if you would like more details.

The West Coast is one of six components making up the Florida Dental Association. Each component has affiliate associations. We are of course biased that the West Coast is the "Best Coast" though. Together we elect our members as delegates and trustees both at the state and national levels to represent all Floridians. We also nominate members to serve on state committees and to councils representing us. I urge you to become involved in this way as well.

No matter what your area of interest in dentistry, it has never been a more important time to be a part of organized dentistry. Each and every dentist needs to be a member, as the future of our profession depends on it! Just going to work and practicing as a clinical dentist is not acceptable if we desire to continue as a profession and not be turned into a vocation. In many medical fields licensed professionals now work for a group practice where the insurance companies and non medical administrators dictate their daily schedule and set the acceptable procedures. Optometrists in Florida were almost stripped of the title Doctor they earned in school by non-doctor entities. The same will happen to the dentists, too, if we continue to sit back and think that someone else will be advocating for us. No one will care more about the future of dentistry than us dentists should. It begins with membership in the WC / FDA / ADA.

We should have 100% membership rates.

If you think the monetary cost of membership is too much, I warn you that the cost of not being a member is MUCH higher.

We should all be worried about all the headwinds facing our profession and our ability to provide quality dental care for all of our patients. We need to bond together similar to the way other fields do with strong membership in their professional organizations. For example, builders and real estate agents are impressive in how they have strong organizations composed of a majority of those in the profession as paying members of the association. They are doing a great job protecting what they work hard for, and we need to as well.

Let's all remember how hard we worked in school to earn our DMD/DDS degree. Membership in the WC/FDA/ADA should be an easy and automatic continuation of your degree. Please feel free to contact me to discuss how you can get involved. In the future, I know we will all reflect on this time as a great time in organized dentistry. Let's all work hard, together, to keep our profession great. Thank you for your camaraderie, friendship, and dedication.



**West Coast District
Dental Association**

2024 SUMMER MEETING



August 23-25, 2024
Registration is Open!

THE RITZ-CARLTON
NAPLES, FLORIDA



Dr. Lance Karp's President's Trip to Napa Valley

APRIL 19 & 20, 2024 MERITAGE RESORT with NAPA VALLEY & SONOMOA VALLEY WINERIES

We enjoyed breakfast and CE with Dr. Mark Holmes, plus tours of Sterling Vineyards, Maxville Winery, Sangiacamo Family Winery, and Sleeping Giant Winery.



Next Year's Travel & CE Trips include a Disney Cruise and BVI Sailing! See page 9 & 10



Past Presidents of the WCDDA together at our 2024 Annual Meeting

Left to right: Drs. Chris Bulnes, Reza Iranmanesh, Jessica Stilley-Mallah, Melissa Grimaudo, Fred Grassin, Rita Hurst, Oscar Menendez, Craig Oldham and Paul Palo.

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved colleagues.

Robert Bousquet, DDS of Tampa, FL passed away on January 1, 2021

Richard Edwards, DMD of Clearwater, FL passed away on November 28, 2023

Perry Matz, DMD of Bradenton, FL passed away on March 2, 2020

Clare McCreary, DDS of Largo, FL passed away on November 15, 2023

Richard Rand, DMD of Punta Gorda, FL passed away on October 3, 2023

James Ross, DMD of Temple Terrace, FL passed away on January 11, 2024

Don Snoke, DDS of Largo, FL passed away on February 3, 2024

Membership Milestones

This year, 2024, marks their milestone anniversary in organized dentistry.

25 years

Dr. Heather A. Adu-Sarkodie
 Dr. Seema D. Amin
 Dr. Madeline Berk
 Dr. Joseph A. Castor
 Dr. Patrick Chase
 Dr. Jerry Copeland, Jr.
 Dr. Richard DelBoccio
 Dr. Claudie I. Delgado
 Dr. Thomas H. Devlin
 Dr. Stephen M. Durrett
 Dr. Shepherd M. Frenchman
 Dr. Richard J. Garcia
 Dr. Frederick J. Grassin
 Dr. Scott R. Griffith
 Dr. Jeannette P. Hall
 Dr. Nancy L. Havens
 Dr. Jerry R. Hynton
 Dr. Glen E. Jones
 Dr. Richard M. Kernagis
 Dr. Jennifer W. Kernagis
 Dr. Lyda L. Botero
 Dr. Francisco Marcano-Soltero
 Dr. Gail McDonald-Chang
 Dr. Michelle L. Moenning
 Dr. Charles W. Moore
 Dr. Keith Morse
 Dr. Donald W. Norton

Dr. Robert Orta
 Dr. James E. Oxeer
 Dr. Roy A. Parker
 Dr. Steven A. Schroeter
 Dr. Raymond A. Spinelli
 Dr. Irma M. Tassi
 Dr. Margaret H. Young

30 Years

Dr. Ziad Abou-Assi
 Dr. Jeffrey W. Anderson
 Dr. Pedro Belaunzaran
 Dr. Vincent T. Cammarato III
 Dr. Steven Ciaravino
 Dr. A. Alessio Conte
 Dr. Sudhanshu Desai
 Dr. Kenyon M. Fort
 Dr. Edgard Francisco
 Dr. Michael S. Geric
 Dr. J. Mauricio Giraldo
 Dr. David R. Heald
 Dr. Mike D. Insoft
 Dr. Susan D. King
 Dr. Theresa C. Kohlberg
 Dr. Caitilin Martini
 Dr. Todd McCabe
 Dr. Christopher A. McCash
 Dr. Edward Moitoso
 Dr. Kathryn A. Ringland

Dr. Frank J Sierra, Jr.
 Dr. Paul Stein
 Dr. Ana Vales
 Dr. Sheryl Watkins

50 Years

Dr. Joseph A. Almaguer
 Dr. Richard W. Blake
 Dr. Anthony R. Cheslock Jr.
 Dr. Daniel C. Cohen
 Dr. Leo J. Curtin
 Dr. James M. Ellis
 Dr. Dane G. Forst
 Dr. Frank N. Giunta
 Dr. Joel H. Goldberg
 Dr. David G. Gordon
 Dr. Stephen B. Hulen
 Dr. Thomas R. Johnson
 Dr. Richard M. Kanter
 Dr. Gerald M. Kluff
 Dr. Steven Lieber
 Dr. Charles D. Llano
 Dr. Daniel J. Melker
 Dr. Kenneth C. Miles
 Dr. Rodney D. Owens
 Dr. George K. Pollock
 Dr. Ronald M. Pross
 Dr. Shoukry B. Soliman
 Dr. Donald J. Turner

Dr. Todd J. Wiener
 Dr. John A. Wiest
 Dr. Davis V. Yates
 Dr. Alexander Yewtuck

60 Years

Dr. Francis L. Bachnik
 Dr. Leonard A. Belli
 Dr. Teddy W. Brown
 Dr. Ernest F. Collins
 Dr. Benjamin F. Earnest Jr.
 Dr. Nick V. Faklis
 Dr. William J. Fields
 Dr. Kenneth W. Hall
 Dr. James R. Hayslett
 Dr. James W. Jackson, III
 Dr. Edwin C. Leonard, Jr.
 Dr. Robert P. Moffett
 Dr. Jon R. Olliff
 Dr. Karl M. Pardee
 Dr. William E. Schmidt
 Dr. Robert K. Sheffield
 Dr. Gerald W. Springstead
 Dr. James V. Steele
 Dr. Jerry L. Stoneking
 Dr. James P. Vogt
 Dr. Alan D. Willis

Longest Membership

Dr. Ralph L Baker – 73 years



Dr. Natalie Carr-Bustillo



Dr. Kristie Johnson



Dr. Douglas Jungman



Sarasota County Dental Association

Service, Leadership and Dedication: Members Honored at the President's Reception

In the warm embrace of camaraderie and shared purpose, the West Coast District Dental Association celebrated the essence of service, leadership, and dedication of members during the President's Reception on February 29 at The Tampa Club.

Dr. Natalie Carr-Bustillo, recipient of the Kintsugi Award, was honored for her unwavering commitment to restoring lives and igniting a ripple effect of professional volunteerism and service. Kintsugi, the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold-laced lacquer, serves as a metaphor for our profession. It teaches us to cherish the journey, embrace imperfections, and find beauty in resilience. Dr. Carr-Bustillo's vision and dedication to restoring lives exemplifies this ethos, inspiring a profound ripple effect of compassion and service.

Dr. Kristie Johnson, recipient of the Daniel Bertoch Leadership Award, was honored for her tireless dedication and many years of selfless service and

dedication to organized dentistry at various levels, she continues to serve and is current President-Elect of the WCDDA.

Dr. Douglas Jungman was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Jungman's lifelong dedication to organized dentistry, his unwavering advocacy for dental healthcare, and his commitment to serving his community have left an indelible mark on our profession.

Sarasota County Dental Association was recognized as the Affiliate of the Year. The SCDA shines as a model of educational excellence, fellowship, and community outreach in dentistry. A standout initiative is Project Christmas Smile, where members and staff provide free dental care to hundreds in need each year. This collaborative effort reflects the affiliate's commitment to community service.





**West Coast District
Dental Association**

2024 SUMMER MEETING

August 23-25, 2024



The West Coast District Dental Association Summer Meeting combines fun and learning at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples — a beautiful and family-friendly resort on the Gulf of Mexico. Enjoy morning lectures and sun-soaked afternoons. Socialize with colleagues and exhibitors. Relax in the luxury of ocean breezes and views. Join us in Naples this August 23-25, 2024!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Registration & Exhibits 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Golf at Tiburón 9:00 am

Lectures 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 10:00 am – 11:30 am

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Registration & Exhibits 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Lectures 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Executive Cabinet Meeting 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Affiliate Round Table Meeting 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

WCDDA Officer Installation 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Registration & Exhibits 7:30 am – 11:00 am

Lectures 8:00 am – 10:00 am & 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

SUMMER MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Date: August 23-25, 2024

Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Naples is located at 280 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples, FL 34108.

Registration Fees:

WCDDA, FDA or ADA Member	\$285
Non-Member	\$425
Dental Student/Resident	FREE
Retired Member	\$70
Dental Team Member	\$85
Guest (no CE)	FREE

Register before August 9 to save: CE fees increase by \$20.00 per registration category on August 9. Preregistered dentists receive a WCDDA amenity.

Refund and Cancellation Policy:

All requests for refunds or cancellations must be made in writing to the WCDDA prior to the preregistration deadline of August 9. A cancellation/processing fee of 15% will be charged. No refunds will be given if cancellation is received after the preregistration deadline. No refunds will be given on site.

QUESTIONS?

Questions or requests concerning room reservations should be addressed with The Ritz-Carlton, Naples (239) 598-3300. Questions concerning meeting registration should be addressed with the WCDDA office (813) 654-2500.



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The sophisticated lobby of The Ritz-Carlton, Naples features an ornate Champagne Bar.

HOTEL RATES AND INFORMATION



The Ritz-Carlton, Naples (beach property)

Coastal View \$234

Gulf Front \$299

Club Level \$584 (limited rooms available, must be secured with WCDDA office)

Parking per day \$15, Resort fee \$5

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort

Resort View \$219

Parking per day \$15, Resort fee \$10

The hotel reservation link will be provided once you have registered for the Summer Meeting. Limit 2 rooms per registrant. Individuals not registered for the meeting will be charged the hotel rack rate instead of the group rate upon checkout. Registrants desiring more than two rooms may check back after May 31, 2024, at which time if there are still rooms remaining in the group room block, the additional rooms will be made available on a first-come basis.

REGISTER TODAY

Scan the QR code or visit us
online at wcdental.org



SUMMER MEETING LECTURES EACH MORNING

Friday, August 23

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Free Gingival Graft vs. Connective Tissue Graft: Do you always have to cover the root?

Dr. Jessica Stilley Mallah | 1.5 CEUs

Although cosmetically we all love the results a root coverage procedure offers, sometimes those results cannot be achieved. Is this a failure? The answer is no. This course will review:

- Diagnosing recession, lack of keratinized tissue and lack of attached tissue.
- Recession classification and how that impacts expected outcomes.
- When you need root coverage.
- What outside factors influence root coverage.

10:00 am – 11:30 am

The Changing Digital Landscape of Orthodontics

Dr. Bill Layman | 1.5 CEUs

Dr. Layman will share the newest patient centric technologies in orthodontics. He will also share techniques that are dramatically improving communication between the orthodontist and restorative dentist. Course Objectives:

- Introduce the listener to the patient centric technological advancements that are improving orthodontic patient care.
- Take listeners through our process of using digital records to effectively communicate with patient and dentist for restorative cases.
- Give the listener a peek into the future of improved environmentally sound aligner production.

Saturday, August 24

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Pediatric Dentistry Update — Minimally Invasive Treatment Options

Dr. Casey Lynn | 1.5 CEUs

Oral-Pediatric dentistry can be intimidating for many dentists, it doesn't have to be! New materials and techniques now available to all dentists allow for minimally invasive treatment, while having less concerns with behavior management, all while keeping our patients healthy. Learn how to properly utilize Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF), Hall Crowns and embrace the use of Glass Ionomer restorative materials to make treating pediatric patients easier. Course Objectives:

- Learn the proper indications for and how to successfully use SDF in your practice to manage carious lesions in young children.
- Understanding primary molar pulpal diagnosis and how Hall Crowns are utilized to restore carious teeth in patients with poor behavior.
- Learn how using Glass Ionomer restorations in your office for traditional dentistry on pediatric patients can increase success rates, while making treatment appointments easier for both patient and dentist.

Saturday, August 24

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Restorative Update 2024: Technology, Materials, and Trends

Dr. Jeff Scott | 1.5 CEUs

In the ever-changing world of Restorative Dentistry, where do you get information to stay current? Dr. Scott will share with you not only the latest developments in implants, porcelains, and cements among many other areas that relate to your practice every day, but also where to find the most current information. Discover the latest trends in:

- Intra Oral Scanners
- Implant Planning Software
- Digital Photography
- Laboratory Communication

Sunday, August 25

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Medical Errors

Dr. Nicholas Grimaudo | 2 CEUs

The purpose of this course is to provide health care professionals with an overview of the problem of medical errors, factors contributing to the occurrence of these errors, and steps that can be taken by institutions and individual care providers to reduce medical errors in key care settings. At the conclusion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Recognize common performance and diagnostic errors.
- Describe the elements of a root cause analysis.
- Identify risk management measures designed to prevent dental errors and increase patient's safety.

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Domestic Violence

Dr. Nicholas Grimaudo | 2 CEUs

This lecture will provide current and specific information for the proper detection, reporting, and investigation of human abuse. Participants will gain an understanding of the importance of the unique position of the oral healthcare team in recognizing abuse, and the responsibilities of the oral healthcare team as mandated reporters according to Florida law and the FDA and ADA Codes. Additionally, participants will:

- Study the various maxillofacial, oral, head, neck, and body injuries that are generally associated with human physical abuse, to include child, spousal, elder, and abuse of the disabled.
- Learn the various types of abuse that may present, including physical, emotional, sexual, and financial, as well as neglect.
- Understand the behaviors that are common among abuse victims and offenders and will learn how their examination can aid in a complete investigation.
- Gain an understanding of the psychological, patient management, and treatment considerations of both the abused patient and the abuse survivor.

OUR SPEAKERS

Dr. Nicholas J. Grimaudo graduated in 1976 from Adelphi University with a bachelor's degree in biology and received his DMD in 1980 from the University of Florida (UF) College of Dentistry in Gainesville. Dr. Grimaudo spent 15 years in private practice before returning to academia. He received a master's degree in material sciences & engineering in 1992 and a master's degree in oral microbiology in 1995, both from UF College of Medicine. Dr. Grimaudo has taught at UF College of Dentistry since 1989 and has served UF as director of quality assurance for its dental clinics, director for advanced techniques with esthetic restorations, and director of infection control in dentistry. In 2007, Dr. Grimaudo completed a doctoral degree in educational administration and policy at UF College of Education. In addition to teaching and developing coursework on treatment planning and clinical dentistry, Dr. Grimaudo teaches continuing education courses for healthcare professionals on administrative, regulatory and practice related issues. He is the owner of Compliance Training Associates and consults with medical and dental offices on OSHA and HIPAA issues. He has lectured nationally and internationally on risk management, domestic violence issues, record keeping and compliance, ethics and jurisprudence, preventing medical/dental errors, treatment planning/diagnosis and other practice-related topics.



Dr. Bill Layman is a graduate of The Citadel and proudly served our country in the US Army as an 82nd airborne paratrooper. He then earned his Dental Degree at the Medical University of South Carolina followed by an Ortho Residency at Vanderbilt University where he was elected by his faculty and peers as Chief Resident. More recently, Dr. Layman returned to the Wharton School of Business at University of Pennsylvania where he earned his MBA, a very unique combination of personal academic achievements! Since 2005 Dr. Layman has been practicing at Straighten Up Ortho in Clearwater, FL — a single doctor, single location practice.



Dr. Casey Lynn was born and raised in Brandon, FL. After finishing his undergraduate degree at Florida State University he returned home to complete a masters in molecular medicine at the University of South Florida. He then obtained his doctorate in dental medicine at Nova Southeastern University where he graduated in the top of his class and was inducted into OKU, the national dental honor society. He was fortunate enough to complete his pediatric residency with the University of Florida in Naples, FL to specialize in the treatment needs of infants, children, adolescent and special needs patients. Dr. Lynn was awarded the Richard C. Pugh Award for scoring in the top 3% nationally on the qualifying exam awarded by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. He has since returned home with his wife and three children, to work in the community where he grew up. Dr. Lynn is excited to provide quality dental care for his patients at SmileLYNN Pediatric Dentistry in Apollo Beach, FL. He also runs the Tampa Tongue Tie Center where he helps infants, adolescents and adults dealing with feeding, speech and sleep issues.



Dr. Jessica Stillely Mallah received her BS in Psychology and DMD from the University of Florida. She then traveled north to the Ohio State University where she completed a master of science and her periodontal training. She began practicing in Hillsborough and Pasco counties in 2008 and received her board certification in 2009. In concert with her love for treating periodontitis, she is passionate about organized dentistry and is a past President of the West Coast District Dental Association and a former Chair of the American Dental Association Council for Dental Benefit Programs.



Dr. Jeff Scott is from Louisville, Kentucky and earned his undergraduate and his dental degree from the University of Kentucky. Following dental school Dr. Scott completed a General Practice Residency at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. He is a Senior Faculty member of The Dawson Academy and has lectured at dental meetings in 17 states as well as Japan and Poland. Dr. Scott has published articles in several dental journals and is a Key Opinion Leader for dental materials manufactures. He is the Clinical Director of Study Clubs for the Dawson Academy and leads the St. Petersburg Dawson Study Club. Dr. Scott is a member and Past President of the Pinellas County Dental Association, a member of the program committee for the West Coast District Dental Association, Florida Dental Association, American Dental Association, American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, and a Fellow in the International College of Dentists. He has been the team dentist for the Tampa Bay Rays since 2000, treating players, coaches, and staff including opposing teams and announcers. He practices in downtown St. Petersburg with his son Dr. Will Scott and was a partner in the Dawson practice as well as being Pete Dawson's dentist for 12 years until his passing in 2019.



SUPPORT THE WCDDA FUND

Donate to support the WCDDA Fund for your chance to win a variety of items that will be raffled throughout the meeting. A complete list of items will be featured in the on-site program. Raffle tickets start at \$5.00. You do not have to be present to win. You may purchase tickets in person at the meeting or on the registration website. The WCDDA Fund supports local dental health education, access to care projects, careers in dentistry and disaster relief. For more information about the WCDDA Fund, visit wcdental.org.

To register for the meeting, scan the QR code or visit us online at wcdental.org





WCDDA PRESIDENT TRIPS

Join us for travel adventures combined with CE lectures. Build relationships with your fellow dentists with two trips planned for 2025

Sailing trip to the British Virgin Islands

SUN & FUN WITH YOUR 2025 PRESIDENT DR. KRISTIE JOHNSON

Yo Ho me “Molar Mateys.” WCDDA President-elect Kristie Johnson will champion a fleet of chartered sailing vessels and powercats circumnavigating the British Virgin Islands May 31-June 7, 2025. The sailing trip offers the perfect blend of relaxation and excitement, as you soak up the sun on pristine white-sand beaches and explore secluded coves accessible only by boat. Whether you’re a seasoned sailor or a first-time adventurer, experienced crew can ensure a safe and exhilarating journey, guiding you to hidden gems and must-see attractions throughout the archipelago. Or, submit a resume and be the Captain of your own vessel and adventure. When was continuing education this much fun? Set sail from Tortola, the largest and most vibrant island in the British Virgin Islands, and chart a course for paradise. Dive into the vibrant underwater world teeming with colorful marine life, or paddleboard

Dr. Hugh Wunderlich wrote this article and will be one of our boat captains!



along tranquil coastlines fringed with swaying palms. Indulge in delectable Caribbean cuisine at quaint seaside eateries, where the flavors of fresh seafood and tropical fruits tantalize your taste buds. Anchoring anxiety? Do not worry, all the destinations have a secure mooring field. Share stories and laughter with fellow travelers as you sip on cocktails, watch the sunset hues and moonlight dance on the waves. The British Virgin Islands promise an escape like no other. More information to come on this sailing expedition and unlock the treasures of this enchanting destination.



ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day

More than 1,500 dentists and dental students attended the ADA’s 7th annual ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. April 7-9, 2024. Thank you, WCDDA doctors and friends who attended. You make a difference!



Cruise with your dental friends and family aboard the Disney Wish

SUN & FUN WITH YOUR 2025 PRESIDENT DR. KRISTIE JOHNSON

In celebration of the WCDDA's growing travel group, you are invited to journey with us to Castaway Cay in February, 2025 aboard one of the newest ships at sea! Join in on the fun and relaxation as we sink our toes in the sand on the #1 ranked private island destination in the Caribbean with fellow members and friends — both new and old!

Sail Dates: February 14-17, 2025

Ship: Disney Wish

Sailing from: Port Canaveral, Florida

Visiting: Two exciting ports-of-call, Nassau and Castaway Cay

Learn more: To learn more about the ship, visit wishuponastarwithus.com/disney-wish/

Get ready for fun, relaxation, and a slice of paradise on Castaway Cay! Meet fellow dental professionals, indulge in gourmet cuisine and a variety of beverage tastings, swap the highs and lows of your past year in the industry, and gain a renewed sense of pride in your profession while having the time of your life aboard this premium cruise ship.

Ready for some great news?

Continuing Education is a crucial component of this trip, and WCDDA works diligently to provide the opportunity for travelers to earn sufficient CE during this trip. Participation in CE is not required and is the personal choice of each traveler.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that this experience is just for families with children! History shows that the WCDDA travel group attracts adults traveling with and without children — even on their ever-popular Disney cruises.

Group space is limited.

Please complete the Reservation Request form today by scanning the QR code at right. We look forward to seeing you aboard!



WCDDA DISNEY CRUISE
Feb 14-17, 2025



SAMPLE CABIN PRICING*:

- Suite Balcony cabins from \$3,056 per person
- Balcony cabins from \$1,565 per person
- Oceanview cabins from \$1,412 per person
- Inside cabins from \$1,301 per person

*For 2 guests, including taxes, fees, and port expenses. Availability and pricing is subject to change until a deposit is confirmed.

SPACE LIMITED. RESERVE TODAY!

Scan the QR code to complete the Reservation Request form.



Questions?

sara@wishuponastarwithus.com

DENTISTRY HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, OUR COMMITMENT HASN'T.

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Elevate your membership by engaging with Affiliate Dental Associations!

West Coast District Dental Association has thirteen counties in the district. Joining and getting involved in the local dental affiliate provides an excellent opportunity to engage dental colleagues in your community, attend local CE meetings, participate in community events, and enhance your leadership skills. To learn more about events in your community reach out to the affiliates <https://www.wcdental.org/about-us/affiliates>.

WCDDA AFFILIATES:

Collier	Pasco
Greater Highlands	Pinellas
Hernando	Polk
Hillsborough	Sarasota
Lee	Upper Pinellas
Manatee	



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Director of Operations
DSO Transactions



J. Kenny Jones
Broker-Associate



Morcie Smith, CFP
West Coast



Michael Connor
Central Florida



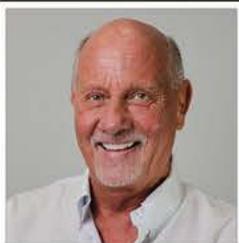
Ricardo D'Avila
Miami-Dade & Broward County



Dr. Jack Saxonhouse
Palm Beach County



Dr. Janice Luke
Palm Beach County



Dr. Tony Hodge
Treasure & Space Coast



Dr. Carlton Schwartz
FL Panhandle



Dr. Jerry Pyser
Statewide Representation



Mary Ann Serkin
Northeast, FL



Ron Rubenstein
Southeast, FL



Kyle Pace
FL Panhandle



Samantha Jones
Accounting Director



Scott Davis
Administrative Manager



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WCDDA Members attend the FDA's Dentists Day on the Hill in Tallahassee



SPECIAL NOTE FROM DR. STEVE TINSWORTH:

A Banner Year for Dentistry!

The FDA sent all members a Special Alert memo in early March that is important to you and your patients. It outlined key legislative actions from the 2024 Session (summarized in the sidebar at right). Organized dentistry — ADA, FDA, WCDDA, and our local dental societies — has always been looking at how to be professionally caring for oral health and its safe delivery to the public: our patients.

It just doesn't happen. It takes focus and effort in being attuned to issues and to those who represent us in government and health organizations. It impacts the costs of running our practices.

Acknowledging organizations of dentistry who are serving the public's best interest is important as a profession. It is pride and respect for being leaders for our patients and public health.

This was a banner year for dentistry in the legislature. Contacting and sharing information with our elected officials and their staff is very important.

We have been blessed with having some very solid elected officials who trust our input and it was returned this year with wonderful legislative support for oral health in Florida.

Please share with your staff and patients how dentists supported these actions and how our legislators supported these measures. It's a great time to toot the horn for the work we do with the FDA to better care for the Florida public.

Dr. Steve Tinsworth



Dr. Steve Tinsworth, at left, with colleagues at DDOH.



2024 Legislative Session Outcomes:

It was year in which dental advocates worked for funding for programs to increase access to dental care for Florida's veterans and underserved populations, and the passage of legislation to protect patients and promote oral health for all Floridians.

Key legislative actions included:

- Passage of bills in the Florida Senate and House to ensure Florida patients receive the dental benefits they are paying for and requires dental insurance plans to obtain consent from the dentist to pay a claim by a virtual credit card.
- Passage of the Live Healthy Act, which expands the dental student loan repayment program, training opportunities for dental students, and an increase for dental services in Florida's Medicaid program, which hasn't had a funding increase since 2011.
- Passage of bills in the Florida Senate and House to increase patient protections for direct-to-consumer dentistry.
- \$1 million in funding to implement Florida's veterans dental care grant program
- \$250,000 in funding for the 2025 Florida Mission of Mercy

STATEMENT FROM DR. BEATRIZ TERRY, PRESIDENT OF THE FDA:

"The FDA thanks the Florida Legislature for their tremendous efforts to prioritize and promote oral health. Oral health has far-reaching impacts on the overall health and well-being of Floridians. By supporting solutions that safeguard patients and promote access to routine dental services and preventive care for all Floridians, we can make a lasting impact on people's lives, health and futures."

Save the date:
2025 DDOH
March 25, 2025!



What's it like to attend Dentists' Day on the Hill for the first time?

BY DR. JAMES G. WILSON

Recipient of the Dan Bertoch Dentists' Day On the Hill Memorial Scholarship

I had the pleasure of attending the Dentists' Day on the Hill for the first time in late January. If you haven't had an opportunity to go, I would highly encourage you to consider it in the future. I must admit, I was a little intimidated by not knowing how things worked for this event before attending. I was asked to make appointments with my representatives but really not given a lot of direction on how to do so. As such, I felt a little unprepared when I drove up to Tallahassee on the Monday before the Tuesday event.

The FDA Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) had an excellent debrief, on Monday evening, reviewing multiple issues that could affect dentistry along with talking points for when we met with our representatives. Groups of dentists then made plans to walk the halls of the capital together to meet with our representatives. This was very helpful as I was able to go to a few meetings with veterans of Dentists' Day on the Hill as they reviewed the bills up for consideration by the House and Senate this year.

Jumping from group to group, I was able to meet with our representatives (including one of my patients who welcomed me with open arms) and one legislative aide. By the early afternoon, I was comfortable enough to



Dr. Wilson is pictured in the center of this photo with colleagues before attending a meeting.



Dr. Wilson, left, pictured at the Legislative Briefing.

provide my insight on some of the bills being considered.

One of the reasons I would recommend any of you consider going to Dentists' Day on the Hill in the future is to see how the representatives embrace having us visit and listening to our side of the issues. I was truly impressed by how knowledgeable the representatives and their aids were on many of the issues that affect us but also realized how important it was for us to educate them on the nuances that might not be as obvious to someone who does not sit at the chair every day.

I know it is a lot to ask, of many people, to take a day or two off of work in an effort to be the face of dentistry to our representatives, however, I think you'll find that it's a small

price to pay to show that we are united as a profession. As the old saying goes, "if you're not sitting at the table, you're likely to be on the menu."

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:

Dr. Dan Bertoch, known for his dedication to advocating for the dental profession, is honored through a Memorial Fund established in his name. This fund aims to support first-time attendees to the FDA Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH) in Tallahassee each year. The grant is open to dentists passionate about engaging with legislators to address dental issues and support the Florida Dental Association's legislative agenda. The grant can be used towards transportation and accommodations at the host hotel.

THANK YOU, RICK D'ANGELO!

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) would like to thank the FDA Services' (FDAS) Board of Directors, employees and clients for supporting organized dentistry. In the last 10 years, the sales of superior insurance products to dental practices have raised more than \$16 million in non-dues revenues, all while keeping malpractice insurance premiums lower than they were when FDAS started in 1989. The FDA encourages all West Coast members to use Rick D'Angelo for their practice insurance needs and continue to support organized dentistry.



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