

Hitchhiking Hen Hangs Out at Helena MDA Meeting

On Thursday, May 9th, MDA's 2019 Annual Meeting was in full swing when attendees began to notice a lone dark-brown chicken hanging around the front entrance area of the Marriot Delta Hotel in Helena.

Jean Strainer, who has organized 18 annual meetings for MDA, said, "We noticed the chicken from our registration table booth in the lobby. Everyone was making inquiries, wondering if we knew anything about the chicken."

No one seemed to know, but people began taking photos and later selfies with themselves and the chicken. Others tried to give it food and water.

After the annual awards reception on Thursday night, MDA Executive Director Al Garver learned of the chicken buzz while talking to dentist and MDA member Dr. Tony Frederickson, who acknowledged that it was his chicken... sort of. Dr. Frederickson lives in an urban subdivision in Livingston, Montana, and the chicken randomly showed up at their home a week prior and began roosting in their garage and laying green eggs. When they began closing the garage door at night, the chicken began roosting underneath his pickup, on top of the differential.

Dr. Frederickson was attending CE on Thursday when he heard the buzz about a chicken and went to look. He

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MDA Executive Director Al Garver observes "Delicious" outside the Delta Colonial Hotel in Helena, Montana.

Photo by Val Eyssen

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MDA 2019 Legislative Round-up

The Montana legislature adjourned on April 25, 2019. MDA staff, the Government Affairs Committee and our lobbyists from Smith & McGowen put in countless hours on two major bills and a host of smaller ones. Key results are as follows:

SB 157: Generally Revise Dental Auxiliary Laws. Senator Al Olszewski sponsored MDA's primary bill that would allow general supervision of dental auxiliaries who hold a certified dental assistant certification from DANB. It enables a certified dental assistant to perform

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How Do You Compare with the Competition?

A few days ago, I was informed by our Executive Director, Al Garver that, as MDA President, one of my responsibilities is to provide an article for this issue of MDA News. "No pressure," he said, "but it should be inspirational and profound."

Oye! No pressure?!? I hate writing! Does anybody even read these articles?

As a test to see if anyone is still reading, I decided to include an 'easter egg'. Here it is... At the MDA meeting, after I was sworn in, a few people asked me (joking, I hope) if they should call me 'Mr. President' now. I responded, "Mr. President' is much, much too formal, just call me 'Jefe' (pronounced heh-fē)." So, when you see me, if you call me 'Jefe', I'll know you read the article.

Thanks and kudos to Al, Jean, and Pam for organizing another excellent MDA annual meeting. They make it look easy, but I can assure you it isn't. I'm super excited to see y'all at Big Sky next year!

I've been asked why on earth would I consider saying 'yes' to serving in MDA leadership. It's simple, really. As a career changer, I'm extraordinarily grateful for

this profession and for the opportunity to associate with amazing people. It's been a privilege to represent the 1st District on the MDA Board of Directors and to serve in the MDA leadership. I'm honored to be able to give back in a small way to this profession and this association that has been such a blessing in my life.

The headline speaker on Friday was Dr. Roger Levin. His presentation was titled 'The Successful 21st Century Practice'. Dr. Levin was an excellent speaker and he presented a lot of useful information, but I can tell you that after listening to him, I definitely did NOT feel 'successful'.

My overhead is too high. My staff costs as a percentage of collections are too high or collections are too low, or maybe both are true. If I compare my practice to Dr. Levin's practice benchmarks, I feel lame.

Comparing ourselves to others is human nature—we all do it. Other dentists are placing more implants. Other dentists have better websites. Other dentists have more new patients in their offices. Other dentists use lasers. Other dentists get more CE. Other dentists take more time off. Other dentists



DR. RONALD JARVIS
President

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

U.S. Senator Jon Tester Supports Enduring Lasting Smiles Act

On May 6, 2019, MDA received an e-mail from the office of U.S. Senator Jon Tester, informing members that he had signed on as a cosponsor of S. 360, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA). MDA members had discussed this ADA-led legislation during their April 16th office visit

in DC with Senator Tester's staff. ELSA would require all private insurance group and individual health care plans to cover medically necessary dental services resulting from congenital abnormalities.

ADA Launches Formal Petition to FDA; Asks Members to Log In and Comment

ADA is asking all members to take time to log in to the formal petition against Smiles Direct. The link and primary language are below:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docketBrowser?rpp=25&so=DESC&sb=commentDueDate&po=0&D=FDA-2019-P-2038>

Requests that the FDA seek pursuant to FD&C Act § 302(a) [21 U.S.C. §332(a)], an injunction against SDC from manufacturing or continuing to manufacture and from continuing to distribute and sell in interstate commerce SDC's plastic teeth aligner and dental impression material products. Absent such an injunction there is a likelihood that SDC's misbranding violations will continue.



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How Do You Compare...

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have nicer offices. Other dentists... The comparisons could go on and on.

May I suggest that the only comparison that really matters is the comparison between the you of today and the you of yesterday, or of last week, last month, or last year? Your competition isn't the other dentists in your town, it's yourself.

There's no finishing line where the first one to cross it wins. We are all on a personal journey in dentistry and life. Only you can define what success looks like for you in your life and in your practice. Best wishes to each of you on your journey.

Ronald Jarvis
President, Montana Dental Association

Montana representatives to the annual ADA Lobby Conference pose with ADA President, Dr. Jeffrey Cole (second from left) at the opening night reception. Dr. Jane Gillette, Dr. Joni Richmond-Stevens, and Al Garver were three of five Montanans in Washington DC for the event, April 14-16, 2019.

Dr. Kevin Miltko and Dr. Doug Hadnot (not in photo) rounded out a team of five that visited Montana's congressional delegation.





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MONTANA DENTAL Advocate

MDA 2019 Legislative Roundup...

(Continued from Page 1)

certain tasks, even if the dentist is not on the premise. The Montana Board of Dentistry issued a letter voicing its unanimous support for this bill and will define the scope of allowed duties, following enactment of this legislation. The Montana Dental Hygienist Association formally supported the bill on the Senate side.

Governor Steve Bullock signed the bill into law on April 18, 2019. MDA is currently working with the Montana Board of Dentistry to define the primary tasks allowed by CDAs under general supervision.

HB 599: Community Health Aid Program (CHAP). HB 599 was signed into law on May 9, 2019, by Governor Bullock. The bill authorizes tribal nations to create the CHAP board and begin basic functions to allow mid-level providers to perform behavioral and mental health

services on tribal lands and in urban Indian health centers.

MDA members loudly voiced their opposition to the Dental Health Aid Therapy (DHAT) provisions of the bill and the following key exceptions were included in the final bill language:

(2) requires dental health aide therapist services to be excluded from the community health aide program in Montana unless the services are authorized under state law and provided in accordance with state law.

(a) dental health, as a primary or expanded function dental health aide, dental health aide hygienist, or dental health aide therapist to assist with dental education and primary or preventive dental care as appropriate to the individual's certification, and provided that performing dental extractions or invasive procedures to teeth and gums is prohibited;

Medicaid Increase: Key committees approved a 0.9% Medicaid fee increase for multiple providers, including dentists. Because of the looming debate over Medicaid expansion, there was no viable path to pursue legislation to seek a larger increase this session.

HB 86: Restrictions on Opioid Prescriptions. Sponsored by Rep Vince Ricci at the request of the Office of the Attorney General. Signed by the governor on March 21, 2019, it implements measures to combat over-prescription of opioids. MDA formally supported this bill, which mirrors ADA calls for action regarding opioid prescriptions.

HB 152: No Surprise Medical Bills. Rep K. Kelker sponsored this bill to ensure health care providers disclose costs of procedures. Known informally as the "transparency" bill in the 2017 session, MDA was pursuing an exception in 2019 for dentists, since most dental providers already disclose costs and options in treatment plans. The bill died on April 25, 2019.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The MDA will focus heavily on the DHAT issue during the 18 months until the 2021 legislative session. The executive director is involved in bi-weekly calls with ADA's State Public Affairs team and a task force including 12 states working with DHAT issues. It will continue to be MDA's highest priority for the foreseeable future.



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Montana Oral Health Foundation Update

The MOHF Board met for their spring meeting on April 24th via conference call. The following are items of interest from the meeting:

1. MOHF currently has total assets in 2019 of \$312,689. (Assets in 2015 were \$198,326 so the fund has grown considerably).
2. The MOHF Board approved the transfer of \$12,000 from the MOHF checking account to the investment account. Money is transferred each year at the spring meeting. The amounts vary depending on how much was collected and spent during the previous year.
3. The Doug and Sue Hadnot Fund which was started a little over one year ago to allow dentists to take advantage of the Montana Income Tax Credit has a balance of \$50,350. If you are interested in giving to MOHF, consider this fund a good option for maximum tax advantage to you.
4. MOHF Grant and Scholarship donations increased to \$8,000 this year. MOHF supported many hygiene and assistant students as well as the Donated Dental Service program Lab costs.
5. Dr. Maria Bartoletti was selected to the MOHF Board to represent District 3.
6. The MOHF Board will have a training meeting in the early fall on the subject of investments.

Charitable Remainder Trusts – What are they and how can they be advantageous to you as a dentist?

A Charitable Remainder Trust is an irrevocable trust designed to reduce the taxable income of an individual. Consider a dentist who is about to retire and is planning to sell the building housing his practice. If a Charitable Remainder Trust is established, proceeds from the sale of the building can be placed into the trust. The dentist will avoid paying Capital Gains Taxes on the property and can receive a significant charitable income tax deduction. As a beneficiary of the trust he/she will receive a payout from the trust for a specified period. When the trust terminates, the remainder of the trust funds will be given to the designated charity or Foundation. Consult your financial planning advisor and see if this may be advantageous to you. Please also consider the Montana Oral Health Foundation in your estate planning, as a way of returning something back to your profession.

Dentists make a living by what they earn, but they make a life by what they give.

—Paraphrase of a Winston Churchill quote

Dr. John Smith and the entire MOHF Board thank you for giving and ask that you remember MOHF in your estate planning.

Hitchhiking Hen Hangs Out...

(Continued from Page 1)

could not believe it when he realized the chicken was his. It had somehow managed to ride under the bed of his truck for 110 miles at the freeway speed limit of 80 mph.

Dr. Frederickson related that his children, who had nicknamed the chicken “Delicious” as a family joke, had been texting him, alarmed the hen was missing at their home. When he texted them and told them she had stowed away under his truck and was with him in Helena, they implored him to bring her back. He had no idea how he would manage that since the chicken was essentially feral and not readily catchable.

The assembled group he was talking to found it difficult to believe such a claim. To prove it, Dr. Frederickson showed the group photos on his cell phone of the chicken roosting under his truck and in the garage, and of green eggs it had laid.

“Delicious” was still outside the Colonial Hotel on Friday, with even more people taking photos and selfies once the story had spread. Al Garver had someone snap a photo of him with the chicken, so MDA would have some tangible proof of the events. MDA News later confirmed that Dr. Frederickson purchased a pet crate and had people help him catch his hen so it could return safely to Livingston with him... inside his truck.

EDITOR’S NOTE: MDA has formally requested “Delicious” to attend the next annual meeting as a VIP in Big Sky, Montana, April 16-17, 2020.

MDA 2019 Annual Meeting

All MDA Annual Meeting
ph0t0s provided by
Dr. John Smith, Helena



Avitus Dental Management Services cuts the ribbon to open the exhibit hall at the MDA Annual Meeting on May 9, 2019. Avitus was prime sponsor for the MDA conference. Pictured left to right are MDA President Elect Dr. Ron Jarvis, MDA President Dr. Andy Althausen, Michael Rider, Larry Iverson, Kim McCleskey, Leah Lochner, Colton Brajcich, and MDA Executive Director Al Garver.



ADA Director of Society Outreach Val Eyssen and MDA staff Pam Maslanka work the registration table.



ADA 11th District Trustee Dr. Linda Edgar presents the ADA President's Pin to MDA President Dr. Andy Althausen.



MDA sold out all exhibit spaces for the 4th year in a row.



Dr. Chris Hirt and Dr. Chris Loomis.



MDA Immediate Past President Dr. Kevin Rencher



Tiffany Claeys, RDH, and Dr. Ingrid McLellan pause for a photo while checking out the exhibit hall.



Dr. April Foster (left) joins Dr. Andy Althaus in congratulating Celeste Reilly as Outstanding Dental Assistant



Dr. Mandy Stebbins (left) joined Dr. Andy Althaus in congratulating Ellie Bicha as Outstanding Dental Hygienist.



(Above) MDA President Dr. Andy Althaus (third from left), with current and former TT Rider Award recipients. From left to right: Dr. John Smith, Dr. Leslie Hayes, Dr. Althaus, Dr. Kevin Miltko, Dr. Doug Hadnot, Dr. Roger Keisling, Dr. Bob Bowman.



Dr. Kevin Miltko earned the 2018 TT Rider Award, MDA's highest honor.



All four MDA officers on the ballot were elected unanimously. Taking their oath of office are: ADA Delegate at Large Dr. Kurt Lindemann; MDA Vice President Dr. Ingrid McLellan; MDA President Elect Jason Tanguay; and MDA President Dr. Ron Jarvis.

Incoming MDA President Dr. Ron Jarvis thanks outgoing MDA President Dr. Andy Althaus with a gift of a waterproof bike frame bag for his next mountain biking adventure.



Dr. Leslie Hayes (right) joins Dr. Andy Althaus in congratulating Dr. Tim Lawhorn as the Clinician of the year.



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Montana Nonprofit Brings Dentistry, Medical Aid Around the World

MADDIE VINCENT maddie.vincent@mtstandard.com

This article appeared in the Montana Standard March 4, 2019, and is reprinted here with permission.

On a recent morning, a man dressed in colorful, intricately patterned clothing played a video for Butte Central's K-8 students. The video highlighted hundreds of photos from a recent trip to Africa, and as it played, the man talked about each face or place or event being projected onto the gym wall.

"Watching this is emotional for me because these people are a part of my life," said Tom Bartoletti, founder of Montana Dental Outreach Teams, a nonprofit dedicated to providing free dentistry and humanitarian aid to both children and adults living in poverty.

Bartoletti has organized these outreach trips since 2004, first traveling with his family then with a different team of dentists, medical professionals, and college- or high school-age students two times a year. The Sheridan-based dentist said he aims to both give back to humanity and to expose his teams to different cultures.

In December, an outreach team traveled to Saint Lucia, a Caribbean island. This week, a team will embark on a 10-day trip to Ghana, Africa, bringing with them over 500 toothbrushes donated by Butte Central students and local Catholic parishes.

"We were more than willing to take this

project on," said Susie Hogart, Butte Central's elementary and middle school principal. "These may be the only toothbrushes the people in Ghana ever receive."

Bartoletti is a Butte Central graduate and has worked closely with both the local Catholic high school and Carroll College to bring students on outreaches, though he said they are non-religious trips. Over 200 people have traveled with Bartoletti to places like Ukraine, Haiti, Honduras, Colombia, and Ghana.

Of the handful of these people The Montana Standard spoke with, every one said their outreach experience was life changing.

Lorena Payne, a physical therapist based in Bozeman, said her first outreach trip was in 2013 when she traveled to Santa Domingo, Ecuador, with about 20 other medical professionals and college students.

"This first trip was an introductory trip for me... it opened my eyes to different cultures and approaches to disability or impairments," Payne said.

Payne said while she was in Ecuador, she met a boy around 5 years old who couldn't walk—his mom had been carrying him since birth. After showing the boy's mom a few techniques and stabilizing his trunk, Payne said the boy was able to stand and play basketball with his brother.

When Payne returned on her own the following year, the young boy was independently walking.

Now about seven years later, Payne still goes to Ecuador at least once a year through Families with Heart, a Helena nonprofit

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(Top photo) Butte Central Elementary students presented Tom Bartoletti with toothbrushes that will be given to orphans in Ghana when a team of volunteers with Montana Dental Outreach makes a trip to refugee camp this month. —Meagan Thompson, The Montana Standard

(Bottom photo) Chloe Wright and Kooper Kuchty prepare to bring toothbrushes donated by their classmates to the front of the room at an assembly on Friday afternoon at Butte Central Elementary School. —Meagan Thompson, The Montana Standard

Montana Nonprofit Brings Dentistry...

(Continued from Page 12)

that's worked with Montana Dental Outreach and aims to help special needs people in Ecuador.

With the help of Carroll College physical or occupational therapy students, Payne works to educate caregivers and local physical therapists in two under-served locations. Payne has taught courses at a physical therapy school in Ecuador, worked with children at an orphanage in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, and is helping with a cacao farm that hopes to employ and house locals with disabilities.

"What drives me is the ability to share my experiences and get experiences myself that improve how I approach all of the patients I see," Payne said.

Like Payne, Gaspar Tognetti, Bartoletti's son-in-law, has also traveled with Montana Dental Outreach Teams to Ecuador. He said on a personal level, working there was especially hard for him.

Tognetti explained that usually the outreach team gets one building that they section out with curtains to create a pop-up clinic. Usually there's some kind of generator running so the team can have access to electricity and buckets for water sitting around.

On the trip Tognetti recalled, this room in Ecuador was filled with screaming children, most with cerebral palsy. Doctors in Ecuador refuse to treat or even touch kids with cerebral palsy, so many in the room had rotting teeth or other ailments.

"After they left, I had to go outside and sit on the curb where I started bawling, crying, because I couldn't process what was going on," Tognetti said. "It was very stressful to see that and inspiring to see how Tom was able to do dental work on those children."

Tognetti has been on about five trips with Bartoletti, including one to help people in his home country, Argentina. As a result of embarking on these outreaches, Tognetti has started volunteering more within the Baltimore community, where he is attending medical school at Johns Hopkins University, and grown more grateful for what he has in the U.S.

"It's a very elaborate answer," Tognetti said when asked why these outreaches are important. "These trips provide humanitarian aid for people in need and insight of what is going on in the world for college students."

That was the case for college students William French and Reagan DeBruycker and high school student Zoe Sullivan. All three talked of wanting to go on an outreach as a way to travel and help under-served communities. All three were surprised in some way by the reality of their trip and motivated to continue local and global outreach.

French said his trip to Ghana was filled with miracles and reaffirmed his desire to work as a physician in under-served communities both at home and abroad.



Lorena Payne, a Bozeman-based physical therapist, works with a disabled child on a recent trip to Ecuador. After traveling to the South American country with Montana Dental Outreach Teams, Payne continued to visit and offer both education and therapy to Ecuador locals.



Zoe Sullivan, 18, right, traveled to Ghana in December 2017 with the Montana Dental Outreach Teams.

DeBruycker said her handful of outreaches are indescribable experiences and solidified her decision to become a dentist as she saw how dentistry could make a positive impact on others right away.

Sullivan said her two outreaches have shown her how she needs to be more open to helping others and seeing how they live, changing her whole outlook on life. This Friday, Sullivan's sister Sophie and their dad Brian will head to Ghana on their first outreach trip.

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MDA Members Dr. Mike Bowman, Dr. Roger Keisling, Dr. Dave Bull, Dr. Dave Keim, Dr. Kurt Lindemann, Dr. Fred Anderson and Dr. Bob Bowman.

Montana Nonprofit Brings...

(Continued from Page 13)

"I wish I could go with them, but I'm really happy they're going, because I know how excited they were for me," Sullivan said. "I hope the trip will help my sister be

more outgoing and help her know that she can change the world."

Zoe Sullivan is a Butte native, recently graduating from Butte Central High School. Sophie Sullivan is a junior at Central and will be the youngest student to ever go on a Montana Dental Outreach Teams trip.

"I'm really excited. It doesn't seem real yet," Sullivan said. "I think trips like this give people the opportunity to see they can make a big difference, so as they keep aging, good things keep happening."

Before Bartoletti's recent presentation for Butte Central K-8 students, Sophie Sullivan greeted the younger Central kids with high fives and hugs. She and her dad stood during the presentation, introducing themselves to the school toward the end and expressing their excitement for the upcoming trip.

After the Sullivans introduced themselves, Bartoletti changed the course of his speech from talking about the outreach trips to speaking directly to the young Central students about their futures. He told the students he hoped to bring them on these outreach trips someday and said they were lucky to be receiving a Catholic education.

"It's the Catholic thing to give back to humanity," Bartoletti said to the Central students. "Through a strong work ethic, you can do whatever you want to do. Don't ever forget that."

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Western Montana PENDING - Centrally located to just about everything in Western Montana. Nearby world class fishing and skiing. Efficient, four operatory practice generating \$500,000 - \$600,000 on only 10-12 days per month. Great cash flow - very low overhead. Fully digital with CBCT; some implants referred out, as well as some endo and complicated 3rds. Owner does a small amount of ortho. Contact Dr. Jared Franson 208-949-0868 or email jared@mydentalbroker.com.

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INTRAORAL X-RAY SENSOR REPAIR/SALES. Repairs with rapid turnaround. Save thousands over replacement costs. We specialize in Kodak/Carestream, Dexis Platinum, and Gendex sensors. We also buy/sell dental sensors. Call 919-229-0483, www.repairsensor.com

For Sale

NO COST DENTAL EQUIPMENT available for dental outreach events. Looking to host a dental mission or community-based event, such as programs in nursing homes, for veterans, or the homeless? We have ALL the equipment you would need

including beautiful new portable ADEC delivery units, a Nomad x-ray unit, and sterilizers. Equipment is available to dentists at NO COST, just return the items in good condition. Contact Dr. Jane Gillette at drjgillette@SproutOralHealth.org or 406-868-1549.

Classified ads are available at no charge to MDA members. Contact MDA at 800-257-4988 or info@montanadental.org. Visit www.MontanaDental.org for more information and opportunities.



Do you know someone who's got what it takes to be a great Dental Assistant?

The Great Falls College MSU Dental Assisting Program is currently accepting applications for fall enrollment. Please contact Ms. Robin Williams, MS, CDA, Great Falls College MSU Dental Assisting Program Director. 406-771-4351, rwilliams@gfcmu.edu. Pictured above: GFC MSU Dental Assisting Class of 2019.

2019

- July 31-Aug 2 • WSPC, Santa Fe
- Aug 16-17 • 11th District Caucus, Seattle
- Sept 4-9 • ADA Annual Session/House of Delegates, San Francisco
- Sept 6 • Board of Dentistry
- Sept 13 • 2nd District CE, "Sleep Medicine & Dentistry." MT2ndCE@gmail.com
- Sept 20 • MDA Board of Directors, Helena
- Sept 27 • MDA CE featuring Dr. Edward Feinberg

Oct 4-5 • Annual AGD CE, contact Dr. Leslie Hayes, 406-586-0622

Oct 25 • Medicaid Symposium, Helena/ Webinar, TBA

2020

- April 15 • MDA Board of Directors, Big Sky
- April 16-17 • MDA Annual Meeting, Big Sky

2021

- May 5 • MDA Board of Directors, Missoula
- May 6-7 • MDA Annual Meeting, Missoula