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DENTURISTS SUE MONTANA BOARD OF DENTISTRY OVER IMPLANT RULE

The Denturist Association of Montana (DAM) filed a lawsuit against the Montana Board of Dentistry on December 13, 2013 alleging that the Board has violated Montana statutes prohibiting regulation in a discriminatory manner, that it has restrained trade and that it has interfered with their lawful rights.

DAM cited these statutes as the basis for suing the Board of Dentistry:

MCA 37-1-131 requires regulatory boards to “apply the standards and rules . . . in a manner that does not discriminate against any person licensed by the board with regard to how the standards and rules are applied to other persons licensed by the board and that does not restrain trade or competition unless necessary to protect public health and safety”.

MCA 2-4-506 provides that “a rule may be declared invalid or inapplicable in an action for declaratory judgment if it is found that the rule or its threatened application interferes with or impairs or threatens to interfere with or impair the legal rights or privileges of the plaintiff”.

DAM contends that:

The Board’s rule prohibiting denturists from placing dentures over implants allegedly “constitutes a restraint of trade or competition which is not necessary to protect public health and safety, and unfairly discriminates between persons regulated by the Board who are equally capable of fitting oral prostheses over implants.”

The Board allegedly “has aggressively pursued any perceived violations by denturists” of advertising laws.

The Board allegedly “has repeatedly neglected and failed to remove resolved complaints against denturists on the ‘Licensee Lookup’ section of the Montana Department

of Labor and Industry-Business Standards Division long after complaints have been resolved.”

ARM § 24.138.2302(j) provides that “fitting, attempting to fit or advertising to fit a prosthesis on or over a dental implant” is unprofessional conduct for a denturist. “Rule j” has been challenged by denturists since in adoption in 1991.

Last year Cliff Christenot, the denturist on the Board of Dentistry, made a motion that the Board repeal the rule. The Board referred this to the Board’s newly-formed Denturistry Committee, comprised of Mr. Christenot, Allen Castell (the president of DAM) and Dr. Dale Chamberlain, a member of the Board. The committee recommended that the Board repeal the rule. At its September 6, 2013 meeting, the Board further discussed repealing the rule and possible amendments other than repeal. It voted to refer the rule back to the Denturistry Committee for further consideration. As no meeting of the committee was called, no further action has been taken by the Board.

(Story continued on page 6.)

Board Moves Forward to Eliminate X-Ray Rule

The Board of Dentistry voted unanimously to continue to move forward to eliminate the rule allowing dental assistants from other states to qualify to take x-rays, “if qualified in another state”. Under the change, those assistants must take the DANB x-ray exam, be qualified by military experience, or be graduates of a CODA accredited assistant program. A public hearing will be held at a later date. Please contact David Hemion at the MDA office for further information (dave@montanadental.org).

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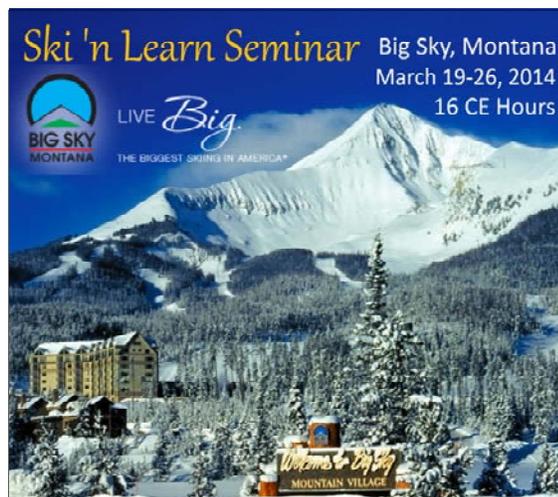
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dr. Mike Veseth
MDA President

The MDA and the ADA are trying to make your practice less stressful and help you with questions and problems that are common to dental professionals. Looking back over twenty-five years I can say I was slow to take advantage of membership value. It was years before I gave the ADA Journal and MDA and ADA newsletters more than a brief look. That was my mistake. Don't be like me, be better.

Unlike twenty years ago there are now more avenues of communication. We are living in a communications explosion. In addition to old fashion mail, there is e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook. The telephone has been augmented by Skype. The printed journals and newspapers have been reinforced by websites.

Both the ADA and the MDA are trying to improve member value by using web sites. The MDA uses a recently built web site, with the logo "Who's my Dentist?" to promote good oral health and public information. It gives advice on preventive care, finding a dentist, affording dental care, and introducing children to good dental health practices. The MDA website also helps dentists to be informed and communicate about legislative issues.

There are both MDA and ADA websites. The ADA has a larger number and a greater variety of subjects. When you review the web site you will find non advertising information on oral health products and independent reviews of dental equipment. If you want information on dental products for patients, you should consult the ADA Product Guide. It is just a few clicks away on the internet.

I would also like to point out a new ADA web site: Success.ADA.org. This has come online in the last few months and acts as a central web site for information on the business aspects of a dental practice. Information about basic practice management problems is useful if you are a new grad or a long time dentist. There is also information on patient communication to improve patient satisfaction, and strategies to make your office more productive. There are also updates on OSHA, HIPPA, and the Affordable Care Act. Everybody has frequently asked questions on these subjects, and organized dentistry is trying to provide you with sound answers.

Your search for answers to problems shouldn't stop with the MDA and the ADA. You may want to speak with colleagues whom you can meet at a dental get together. The information provided regularly by organized dentistry is a good place to start to find answers to your problems. If you are reading this in the ADA News, congratulations you are on the right road! Keep going! There is much available, use it.

GRASSROOTS DENTISTS BEGIN 2014 ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Dr. Kevin Miltko co-hosted a fundraiser for Lt. Governor John Walsh in Missoula. It was the Lt. Governor's inaugural fundraiser as he begins his bid for the US Senate seat that will be vacated by the retirement of Senator Max Baucus. Lt. Governor Walsh grew up in Butte and attended Carroll College. He served 30 plus years in the Army and retired as Adjutant General. He served in Iraq where he earned a Bronze Star. Lt. Governor Walsh has two sons. His daughter-in-law, April, is a general dentist in Helena. He will be seeking the Democratic nomination for the Senate seat where the former Lt. Governor John Bohlinger will also challenge. Current US Rep. Steve Daines will be challenged by Corey Stapleton and Champ Edmunds in the Republican primary. Dr. Miltko chairs MoDePAC.



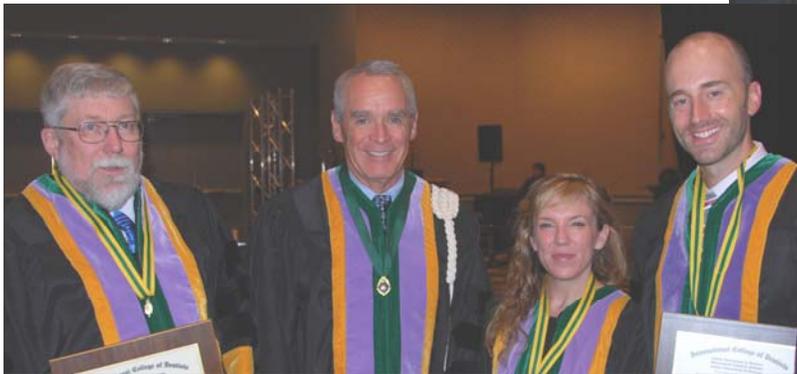
MONTANA DENTISTS INDUCTED INTO ICD

Four Montana dentists were inducted as Fellows of the International College of Dentists at its 84th Annual Convocation in New Orleans on November 1, 2013.

An honorary organization for the recognition of outstanding and meritorious service to the profession and community, the College presented Dr. Christopher Hirt, Dr. Jane Gillette, Dr. Michael Veseth and Dr. Stephen Walters with a membership plaque, a gold lapel pin and a gold key symbolic of this Fellowship for conspicuous service rendered in the art and science of Dentistry.



(top) MDA President-Elect Dr. Christopher Hirt, Dr. Jane Gillette, MDA President Dr. Michael Veseth, and Dr. Stephen Walter pose for a photo after the induction ceremony.



(left) Inductees are joined by MDA past president and ICD District 11 Regent Dr. Bill Fraser.

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FUNDING SUPPORT GROWS FOR MDA'S SEALANTS FOR SMILES!

Oral Health America, the largest national foundation dedicated to improving oral health has awarded MDA's *Sealants for Smiles!* program a \$20,000 grant for 2014. The funding will enable Sealants for Smiles! to expand to meet the demand from the growing number of school who are participating this year. The project brings preventive services to Montana's school children.

"This is incredible," said Dr. Jane Gillette, *Sealant for Smiles!* dental advisor and founder. "Oral Health America brings its financial resources and significant national recognition to Montana." The MDA project joins other similar prevention programs funded under Oral Health America's Smiles Across America effort.

OHA grant is the second foundation to provide funding for this school year. In July, the Montana Caring Foundation, the former foundation affiliated with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana, awarded *Sealants for Smiles!* \$55,000 for 2013-2014.

As importantly, Montana dentists and others have been generous with their donations. *Sealants for Smiles!* honors those individuals for their exceptional support during 2013:

- Gold Circle**
2,500 and above
Dr. Michael Veseth
- President's Circle**
\$1,000 and above
Dr. Neal Buffington
Dr. David Keim
Anonymous
- Leader's Circle**
\$500 and above
Dr. Reed Thompson
Dr. Roger Newman

SEALANTS FOR SMILES! DELIVERS PREVENTIVE CARE ACROSS MONTANA

Sealants for Smiles! had immense success during the first half of the 2013-14 school year. Forty-eight dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and parent volunteers participated to provide 2,715 dental sealants and 2,450 fluoride varnish treatments to 2,600 children in 20 schools.

There are many sealant events and participation opportunities throughout the remaining of the year. Please contact Program Coordinator Bridgette Schramper 406-548-5020 or Bridgette@SmileMontana.org to find out how you can get involved!

Upcoming *Sealants for Smiles!* events :

St. Regis School	January 30
Seeley Lake School	January 31
Washington School	February 6
Bench School	February 7
Beartooth School	February 21
Broadwater School	March 7
Ponderosa School	March 28
McKinley School	April 11
Orchard School	April 25
Valley View School	May 16

Additional Sites (dates to be determined):

Alder, Centerville, Garfield, Lima, Lincoln, Lincoln (Baker), Medicine Lake, Miles, Nashua, Redwater, Warren and Willow Creek schools.

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Board of Dentistry Update continued from page 1.

The Board's response to the suit was due back to the court on January 24. A copy of the lawsuit may be viewed on the MDA members-only website: *Montana Dental Advocate* (montanadentaladvocate.com). The site is password protected and requires your ADA member number to log in.

MDA WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBERS - CONGRATULATIONS!

If you are an MDA member and learn of a new dentist in your community who has not yet joined the association, please invite him or her to join. To obtain an application form, log on to www.montanadental.org or telephone the MDA central office at 1-800-257-4988.

Dr. Kalli D. Elford
Billings
Dr. Carla K. Karsakow
Libby

Dr. Leighton R. Holley, III
Great Falls
Dr. Kevin R. McPherson
Miles City

Dr. Peter J. Schmieding
Bozeman

MONTANA TOBACCO



A quit line information packet was mailed to Montana dentists and doctors earlier this month. The packet is housed in a MTQL branded folder and will have the following contents: a letter explaining the quit line and the purpose of the kit, a brochure about the benefits of the quit line and what it offers, a tobacco cessation medication dosage chart, and a pad of 25 Fax-To-Quit forms for the doctors and dentists to use. We hope this kit will be successful in providing vital information about the Montana Tobacco Quit Line to these doctors and dentists, in turn helping us boost quit line calls and help Montanans quit tobacco for good.”

If you did not receive your packet or if you need further information contact Jeremy Brokaw at 406.444.5687.



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Thad Langford DDS - Bozeman

DENTAL LIFELINE NETWORK REACHES \$250 MILLION MILESTONE

Dental Lifeline Network, home of the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program, has reached a significant milestone: more than \$250 million in dental services donated to people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and have no other way to get help.

Through DDS, volunteer dentists and laboratories have provided life-sustaining, and even life-saving, dental treatment to 120,000 Americans. In 1997, the Montana Dental Association partnered with Donated Dental Services. Since then **volunteer dentists and labs have donated \$3.1 million of comprehensive treatment for 1,068 vulnerable Montanans.**

“This achievement is absolutely thrilling”, said David Hemion, MDA executive director. “The kindness and generosity of hundreds of MDA member dentists has made possible this remarkable record of personal and professional care for others.”



Dr. Jason Tanguay from Bozeman, new DDS volunteer, with one of the two DDS patients he helped in 2013.

Currently, more than 140 of Montana’s most needy citizens are currently awaiting care, and need your help. MDA urges you to consider joining other dentists as DDS volunteers,

“Volunteering is easy,” says DDS coordinator Margaret Petrick, who staffs the programs in Montana, Wyoming and Hawaii from her desk in the MDA office.

“You review the patient profile in advance, choose to see or decline any patient, and determine your own treatment plan and volunteer schedule. You see patients in your own office and never pay lab costs. DDS screens patients to determine eligibility, handles the paperwork, serves as liaison between your staff and the patient, and arranges for assistance from specialists and laboratories.

Contact Ms. Petrick at mpetrick@DentalLifeline.org or 406-449-9670 (toll-free: 888-449-9670). Volunteers are needed throughout the state, but especially in Great Falls, Bozeman, Helena, and eastern Montana.

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE JOB FAIR

Great Falls College MSU will hold a Health Sciences Job Connections Fair on Thursday, February 27 from 10:00 am to – 3:00 pm.

The fair is an opportunity for students who will be completing programs in health sciences, including dental hygiene and dental assisting, to connect with prospective employers.

For information contact:

Kristen Grue at kristen.grue@gfcmso.edu or 406-771-4352

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About Dr. Miles

Dr. Miles is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology and the American Board of Oral Medicine. He has authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles and 6 textbooks, including the best selling atlas on **Cone Beam CT, Color Atlas of Cone Beam CT for Dental Applications** published by Quintessence Publishing. Dr. Miles has a web site for teaching dentists and auxiliaries about digital and cone beam imaging at <http://www.learn.digital.net>.

Dr. Miles is in full-time practice of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology in Fountain Hills, Arizona. He is the President and CEO of Cone Beam Radiographic Services, LLC., a CBCT reporting service for dentists and dental specialists and President of EasyRiter, LLC, which produces a simple CBCT report generating software for the profession.

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1. Understand the principles and all of the current applications of CBCT
2. Understand the risks of using or NOT using CBCT
3. See how it will significantly change the way you do dentistry!

Disclosure: Dr. Miles is a consultant for Planmeca USA and CyberMed International and he is the vice president of research at Interactive Diagnostic Imaging in Atlanta.

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- Hygienist/Staff Attend w/o Dentist \$ 110

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Information for Your Dental Office

Association Dues and Board of Dentistry Licensure Renewal

In late November MDA mailed your 2014 dues renewal statements. Please call the central office at (800) 257-4988 if you need another copy of your dues statement. The dues cycle ends March 31.

The Montana Board of Dentistry 2014 renewal cycle for Dentist, Hygienists and Denturists will run through March 3, 2014. To renew online go to: <https://ebiz.mt.gov/pol/>

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you renewed in 2013 using the new renewal system please use the username and password that was provided to you last year. *If you changed your password last year you need to use the password you set up for yourself.* If you do not remember your username and password please click on the "I've forgotten my password" in the login box at <https://ebiz.mt.gov/pol/> or contact DLI BSD Licensing Unit A UnitA@mt.gov 406-841-2205

MDA Needs Your Email Address

MDA continues to collect email addresses of dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and other dental team members for the purpose of notification of upcoming CE classes. Please email rosita@montanadental.org with your information.

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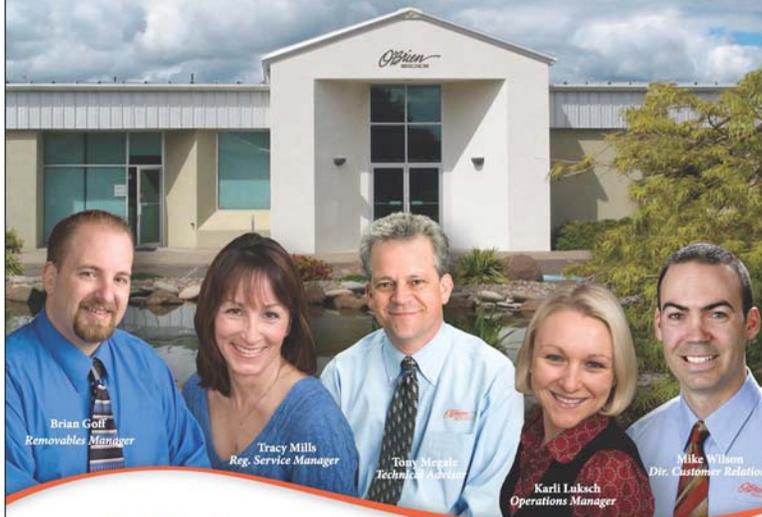
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online at

montanadental.org/mdanews.htm

2014

January

31 Montana Study Club, Dr. Ed McLaren,
Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula. 6.676.7600

March

7 MDA Spring CE featuring Dr. Dale Miles,
"Cone Beam CT", Helena.

14 Board of Dentistry, Helena

19 Ski 'n Learn Seminar

April

30 MDA Board of Directors, Missoula

May

1-2 MDA Annual Meeting,
Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula.
Thurs., May 1, Dr. Joe Steven,
"Efficient Dentistry". www.kiscodental.com
Friday, May 2, The Madow Brothers.
www.madow.com

September

9 Board of Dentistry, Helena

December

13 Board of Dentistry, Helena

Keeping You in Touch with Dentistry in Montana