

THE ALABAMA

Composite



DEDICATED TO THE CONCERNS
OF GENERAL DENTISTS IN ALABAMA
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*Maine Lighthouse
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Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

NEEDS MET AND NEEDS UNMET

Dental care among the indigent is a sad circumstance. Nationwide, there will always be those who cannot afford dental or medical care, as well as those who shun care until they experience pain.

During my 41 years in the private practice of General Dentistry, I treated such patients occasionally, as have many of you—especially in smaller towns and rural settings.

At the Federally-funded clinic where I am now a part-time staff member, I see these patients every day. Severe periodontal disease and rampant decay are common among young and old people who present in my chair. Some of these folks will come to the clinic door at 5:00 in the morning, just to assure being seen when we open at 8:00 a.m. “First come, first served” is the rule for emergency appointments.

Medicaid can help with children's care. However, statistics on this service do not look good. The number of **children covered by Medicaid in Alabama is 47.2%, or 563,000**. Estimates are that **59,300** little ones in our state are **not insured**. As many as **55,000 of these** uninsured are **eligible, but not enrolled**, in Medicaid.

Many private practitioners do not accept **Medicaid**, and for various reasons. In my private practice, I observed that Medicaid patients frequently did not appear for scheduled appointments, leaving me with unfilled time in my day. When they did come, they often brought large family groups, causing crowding in the reception room. My staff found reimbursement and payment procedures cumbersome, with repeated re-submittals necessary. Common procedures were sometimes rejected with no explanation.

You may consider accepting Medicaid patients. The need is great, and any suggestions you have to encourage more participation by dentists is welcome.

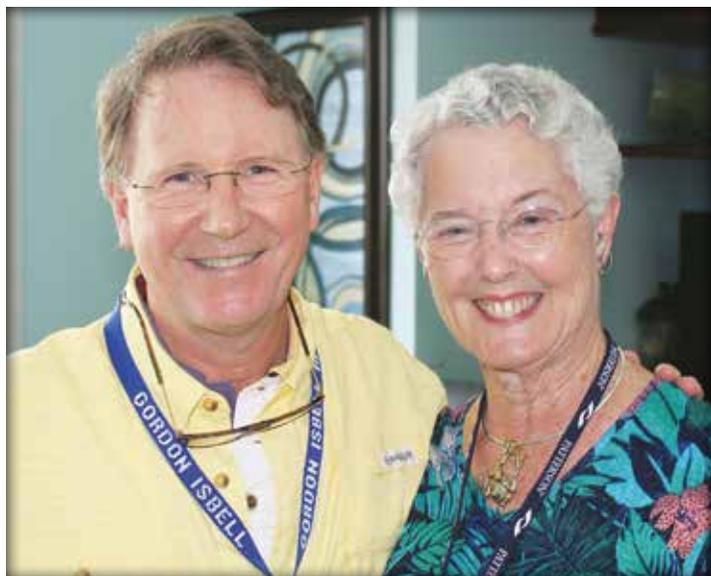
Here are some ways we can help. Several states offer MOM—**Mission of Mercy**—programs. Dental volunteers treat patients for free over a weekend, in portable units and common areas. **ADA “Give Kids a Smile”** program offers dentists another opportunity to minister to the needs of needy children or adults.

“Donated Dental Services”, in which I participated for years, is another avenue allowing us to help people in need. This program has been successful in Alabama, but volunteers are always welcome. Call ALDA for details.

Jesus said the poor will always be with us. We in the health professions, however, must do what we can to alleviate pain and suffering for those less fortunate than we are.

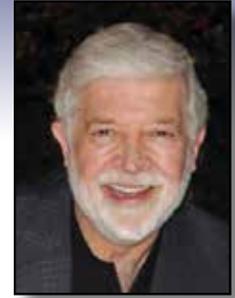
Opinions are of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of ALAGD.

Good friends Gordon Isbell and Chris Chesser.



President's Message

Doug Beckham, DMD, FAGD



Has anyone noticed the ever so slight drop in temperature outside? That means we have survived another Alabama summer. The only thing hotter is a Mississippi summer. Believe me, I have lived through quite a few of them.

The good thing is we had a great 42nd Annual Review of Dentistry at the Baytowne Conference Center at the Sandestin Resort. It was a great conference and well attended. Corporate Sponsorships help make our meetings possible. There is no doubt we have the very best! **Our Gold Corporate sponsors this year were, in alphabetical order, Burdette, Coltene, Mini Implant Dental Solutions, Oral Arts, Patterson, and Straumann. Our Silver Corporate sponsors were, again in alphabetical order, Dental Team Performance and Shofu. Our one Bronze Corporate sponsor was 360 Imaging.**

We could not have done this without them, and we hope this was a Win - Win relationship on both sides.

We have to thank our many great speakers. Dr. Larry Schoonover taught us so much about 3M's mini implants. He remarked numerous times about our gracious Southern hospitality. I believe he would be open to coming back anytime in the future. Dr. Ross Nash helped us with aesthetic and cosmetic dentistry and Compoeners. Dr. Jennifer Doobrow, one of Alabama's own rising stars, along with Tracy Butler, taught us the value of the team approach in hygiene. Also, a special thanks to Dr. Tony Neumeier who led us in the digital dentures session. Dr. Leigh Kent helped us understand that "Tissue IS the Issue" and that we all have to start embracing socket preservation. Two other gurus from UAB, Dr. John Burgess, and Dr. Ken Tilshalski also gave presentations on their respective fields of expertise - dental materials and oral pathology and infection control. Scott Herndon helped us prepare for that CPR emergency. Mr. John Cotton accentuated the value of the dental team and what can be accomplished through a coordinated effort. Lastly, we ended the conference with Dr. Bob Lowe, who spoke on world-class crown and bridge, and the legendary Madow Brothers helped us with new ideas to keep us afloat financially. All in all, it was truly a great review!

I would also like to give the following speaker hosts a well-earned thank you. Drs. Kim Stiegler, Ross Isbell, Marcus Dempsey, Abby Adams, Michael McWilliams, Claire Loverton, Jordan Taylor, T.J. Lucas, LeAnne McDonald, Emily Grisham, Chet Swartzentruber, and David Skees.

Let's talk about next year's meeting! It will be held at the same location, Baytowne Conference Center at the Sandestin Resort, on August 4th, 5th, and 6th. Dr. Rachel Osborne will be the incoming president for next year's meeting. We have already secured one great speaker, Six Month Smiles, for a two-day presentation. I can't tell you how excited I was about this.

Our partnership with Mississippi seems to be working, as Mississippi attendance was up 50% from the previous year.

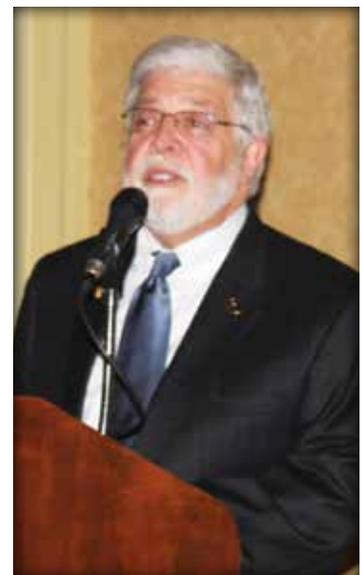
I hope to see all of you at our meeting next year. How can you make that happen? **By putting it on your calendar now!** I want to thank everyone who helped to make this year a huge success!

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. May God watch over us and keep us safely in his hands until we meet again.

Douglas Beckham, DMD, FAGD
2015 President, Alabama Academy of General Dentistry



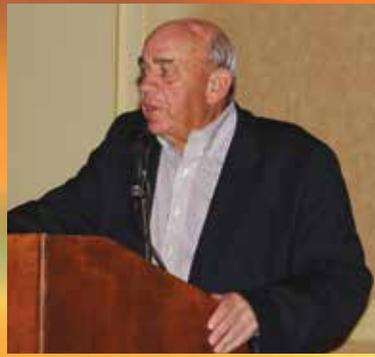
Dr. Beckham receives the traditional green jacket from Immediate Past President Dr. David Skees.



President Doug Beckham takes charge of the Board of Director's Dinner



Dean of the School of Dentistry, Dr. Michael Reddy reports that the school is appreciative of ALAGD support.



Dr. Nick Russo, AGD Past President, addresses the Board to express his appreciation for ALAGD support. Nick has attended this meeting for over 20 years. He is from Delaware.



Left to right, Ross Isbell, National AGD President, Mark Donald and Bobby Babb.



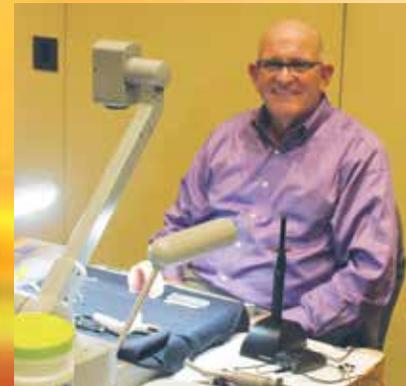
Dr. Rachael Osborne, President Elect of ALAGD, is busy getting ready for the 43rd Annual Review of Dentistry.



Dr. Jennifer Doobrow presented a course on periodontics, shown here with President Dr. Beckham.



Dr. Toni Neumeier conducts a participation course in making digital dentures. Toni is the ALAGD Vice President.



Dr. Ross Nash from Charlottesville, NC, demonstrates Direct Composite Componeers in the hands on course.

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL

August 6, 7, and 8 were the days of this year's Alabama AGD Annual Review of Dentistry. We convened for the third year in a row at Baytowne Conference Center, which is connected to the Grand Hotel at the Sandestin Resort.

A last-minute glitch with the hotel management caused our meeting's Registration location and Exhibits to be moved to the second floor of the venue. However, the Exhibitors and our able Executive Secretary, Angie Gilliver, quickly adapted, proving once again what a masterful organization is ALAGD.

President Doug Beckham can be rightfully proud of the 42nd. With the help of his Board of Directors, as well as that of Past-Presidents, officers, and Committee members,

this meeting went as tight as clock-work.

Mississippi's AGD joined us this year, for the first time, as co-sponsors. This was a stellar idea, and should become a growing concept in the years to come. Visiting with the Mississippi delegation was our national President, Mark Donald, who also hails from Mississippi.

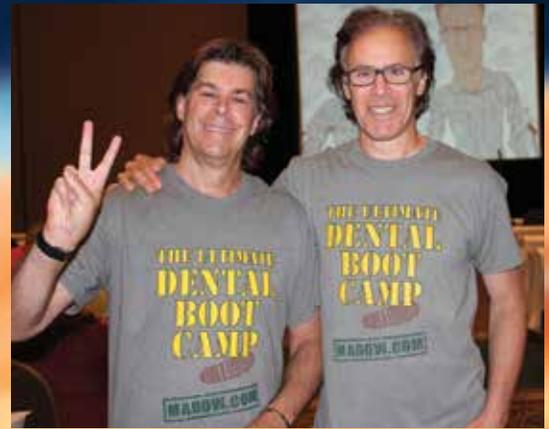
As always, our CE lineup is **THE BEST CE BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY!** (You can quote me on that!) Most disciplines in the dental profession were covered, including CPR, Infection Control, Practice Management, and Participation Courses. Fourteen different Speakers were involved in our CE



Dr. John Burgess explains techniques to Dr. Milton Essig and Dr. Bill Ingram during a break from his course on dental materials.



Angie and Chris Gilliver, our Executive Secretary and her husband, both work very hard to make this meeting successful. We are proud of Chris for getting his US citizenship. Chris is from England.



The Madow Brothers, Drs. Richard and David, presented an exciting practice management seminar.



The winner of the grand prize at the Exhibit Hall Party was a first time attendee from out of state.



President of ALADA, Dr. Bill Ingram, poses with Dr. Glen Miller, Regional Director. Both admiring the sunset.



Dr. Manuel Cordero, AGD Vice President, and Dr. Carol Wooden, Trustee, Region 19, relax on the Oral Arts's yacht.

REVIEW OF DENTISTRY

program. It was possible for one to satisfy all hours to meet CE requirements for Alabama at this one meeting. Probably, there are some who do this.

The excellent CE is reason enough to attend this meeting, but the social gatherings and camaraderie are powerful for members of a profession which is by nature sometimes a solitary existence. The Exhibit Hall Party offered an opportunity for fellowship, not to mention chances to win neat door prizes. As a matter of fact, this year's winner of the most valuable prize, a wide-screen TV, was an out-of-state first-time attendee!

We are thrilled that a core of our young colleagues is actively involved in ALAGD. Several of the 2014 and

2015 SOD graduates helped out as Speaker Hosts at our meeting. We encourage each to continue to be involved in our grand profession of dentistry, bringing their colleagues into the "Fold". Such involvement not only strengthens our profession, but it also results in friendships that last a lifetime. I'm speaking from experience, here.

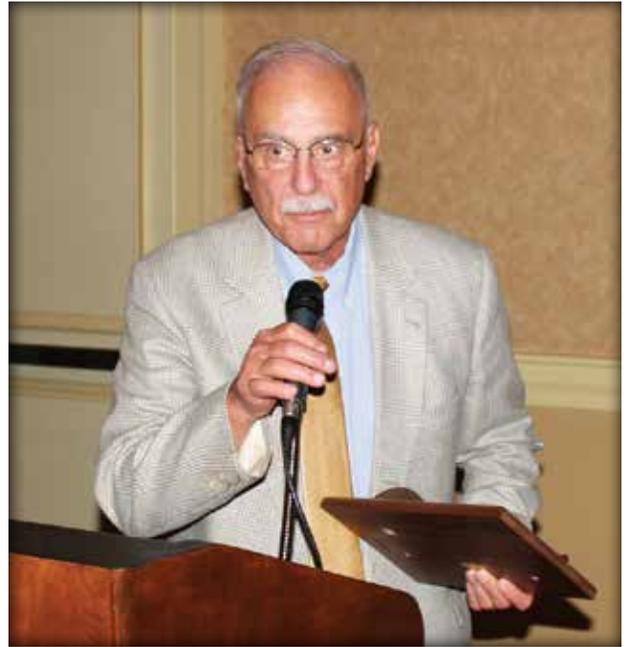
ALAGD is obligated to a contract at this venue which extends through the 2016 meeting. The Board of Directors would consider a change of venue after that time, to include the 2017 season. We would appreciate feedback.

Congratulations to all who helped to make the 2015 Annual Review such a success.

2015 ALAGD DISTINGUISHED DENTIST **DR. CHARLES GRAFFEO**



Dr. Charles Graffeo accepts the Distinguished Dentist Award from good friend Dr. Bill Ingram.



Dr. Graffeo thanks the ALAGD for this honor and states that he is still enjoying working with the Board of Directors.

The recipient of the **Distinguished Dentist Award** this year is **Dr. Charles Graffeo**. Charles, born August 30, 1934, has had a varied and exciting career in his 81 years.

After graduating from John Carroll High School in 1952, where he was Captain of the football team and President of his Senior Class, he spent a year at Vanderbilt University on a football scholarship. Then he transferred to Birmingham Southern College, where he graduated in 1957.

Charles is a 1961 graduate of the UA School of Dentistry, which he followed by spending 3 years in the US Army. He and his wife Ann, whom he wed in October, 1961, have a son, Campbell, who was born in

Germany while his Dad was in the service.

Dr. Graffeo maintains a private dental practice in Huntsville, but has also served for 30 years in the Army Reserve, retiring as a Colonel.

His colleagues have admired his

dedication to our profession, and he has served ALAGD for many years. He has earned Fellowship and Mastership status. Charles is dependable, honest, forthright, and a friend to all who know him.

Congratulations, Dr. Charles Graffeo!



Dr. Campbell Graffeo with Charles and granddaughters.

NEW RULES FOR NON-DISCIPLINARY ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

A new rule has been put into effect for licensees concerning non-disciplinary administrative penalties—Rule 270-x-5.09—in the Dental Practice Act.

The former rule allowed thirty (30) days after December 31 for licensees to renew their licenses without incurring disciplinary action. The BDE felt this was an adequate timeline. License renewal is due beginning on OCTOBER 1. Since notices are received during September, and are delinquent after DECEMBER 31, the BDE extended the “grace period” for thirty days. This gave the licensees a full four months to renew their licenses, and five months if one is to count September.

The Board received quite a lot of negative feedback about this rule. After many meetings and consultations with Senator Paul Bussman, as well as ALDA Executive Director Dr. Zack Studstill and the ALDA Executive Committee, led by Dr. Leigh Kent, ALDA President, we have instituted a new rule, to wit:

Failing to timely renew any license or permit required pursuant to the Alabama Dental Practice Act and performing activities which require the applicable license or permit up to one hundred-eighty (180) days during the time the same was expired will impose a non-disciplinary administrative penalty.

Essentially, the time-line is as follows:

- **September 1:** the annual online renewals open, and are due October 1 of each year.
- **In late October,** a second notice is emailed to those who have not renewed.
- **December 31** of each year is the last day to renew

- One cannot practice dentistry in the State of Alabama on or after **January 1** without a Certificate on hand.
- Any person renewing after **January 1** of each year must apply to reinstate his or her license, and must pay a **\$250 fine**, if a dentist, or a **\$100 fine**, if a hygienist, plus the annual renewal fee.
- The licensees must also execute an **affidavit** stating that they did not practice after January 1 without a current certificate. Any person who fails to provide the required affidavit is subject to either an administrative penalty or a disciplinary action, depending on individual circumstances.

If a licensee has received the administrative penalty once before in the past five (5) years, he or she is no longer eligible for the administrative penalty, and is subject to disciplinary action.

Letters are sent during the second week of January to all licensees and permittees who did not renew before December 31, notifying them that their licenses have expired. Instructions are included, as well as forms which must be filled out for reinstatement.

I believe online renewal will provide a great benefit to all seeking to renew their licenses and permits in a timely manner. When you renew online, please remember to vote for the BDE Candidate of your choice.

This article is reprinted from the BDE newsletter, William E. Chesser, DMD, Board Member



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**AGD LUNCHEON WITH AGD BOARD
 MEMBERS ON APRIL 24, 2015.**



ALAGD hosts the D-4 dental students for a pizza lunch. Helping Dr. Tony Neumeir were Dr. Doug Beckham, Dr. Derrick Mendez and Dr. Alan Kessler.



Recipients for the annual AGD awards. Dr. Michael MacWilliam and Dr. Claire Loverton. Both of these 2015 graduates helped as speaker hosts.