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**THE ALABAMA**

# Composite



DEDICATED TO THE CONCERNS  
OF GENERAL DENTISTS IN ALABAMA  
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*Coast at Mendocino, California*



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## Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

### COMPLAINTS TO THE BOARD

The Alabama Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) exists to protect the public. It is the BDE which mediates complaints against licensed dentists and hygienists in our state.

The complaints come from many sources. They may involve city licensing, advertising, reports from concerned pharmacists, drug abuse issues, and of course grievances reported by patients.

When a complaint is received, it is assigned to a "Team Leader", a Board member who will investigate the facts provided, which do not include the name of the Licensee. Said Licensee will then be asked to provide an explanation of the complaint.

*\*Any communication to the Team Leader and six other BDE members is redacted – that is, no Board Member is aware of the identity of the individual or individuals involved.*

Once all the information is evaluated, the Team Leader presents the case to the Board.

After discussion, the BDE will vote on the Team Leader's recommendation. (*The Team Leader does not have a vote on this action.*) The Board is composed of seven members, including one Hygienist, who only will vote in actions involving another Hygienist. If the action involves a licensed Dentist, only five members will vote.

Many complaints received by the BDE have no evidence to sustain, meaning no wrong has been committed. Some cases require a "Letter of Concern" be sent to the licensee. Finally, some cases require a Notice for a Hearing.

If a Hearing is to be conducted, a date will be set. A Hearing Officer (a lawyer licensed in the State of Alabama) conducts the Hearing, acting as Judge. The Board hears the case presented by the Prosecuting Attorney. The licensee may hire his or her own Attorney to act on his or her own behalf at the Hearing.

After both sides have presented the evidence, the BDE enters into deliberations which are attended only by the Board members and the Board's Executive Director/General Counsel. Here is decided the outcome. Again, the Team Leader has no vote, and the Hygienist member has a vote only in cases involving other Hygienists.

Drug abuse and impairment are two complaints which frequently come before the BDE. Alabama has an excellent Impaired Dentist Program, directed by Dr. Michael Garver of Citronelle, Alabama. If a licensee "self-reports", and abides by the recommendations of the Impaired Professionals Committee, there is no disciplinary action involved, and every effort is made to help the dentist or hygienist back to a normal life.

There you have it: an FYI report on the way your Alabama BDE handles complaints. Anyone can attend, **Board Meetings**, usually on the first Thursday-Friday of each month. Dates are posted on dentalboard.org. Check it out.

# President's Message

Doug Beckham, DMD, FAGD



**H**as this summer ever flown by! Can't it go just a little faster? Could it get just a little hotter? And it's not even August.

Howard Gamble, Gary Myers, Bill Chesser, and I, along with our spouses, traveled to Atlanta on May 29<sup>th</sup> for our annual Region 19 pre-caucus meeting to prepare for the national AGD meeting in San Francisco. It was hosted by the Georgia AGD – and what a great job they did! We had a great weekend seeing old friends and making new ones. I am amazed and grateful to be part of a Region that cares about our profession and prepares so well for the AGD meeting. We worked and the ladies enjoyed Atlanta's Southern Hospitality. You might say they contributed to Atlanta's economy! On Saturday afternoon, Carestream graciously provided a CE program on 3-D imaging to wrap up the weekend.

In mid-June, the four of us, your delegates, headed to San Francisco to attend an outstanding national AGD meeting. Our region and our state organization "did us proud" with thoughtful perspective on the issues. In addition, lots of fellowship with good friends. The Chessers and the Beckhams visited Alcatraz, but thankfully, they didn't keep us!

Our constituency received two awards this year. First, ALAGD was given **the CE Award of Excellence**. What an honor! We're doing something right. We also received **an Honorable Mention in the ACE** category, which recognized our distinguished editor, Bill Chesser, for his continuous outstanding editorial work on our Composite magazine.

Our great friend and AGD president, **Dr. Carter Brown**, awarded two other notable awards of which ALAGD should be very proud. **Dr. Gordon Isbell** was given the Distinguished Service Award for his continuous service to AGD and our profession as a whole. This is one of the highest honors that AGD bestows. **Dr. Gary Myers** was given a Presidential Citation to recognize his work in finding and securing the new AGD building in Chicago. We are proud of these colleagues and grateful for their service to dentistry.

Of course, a little governance was thrown in there somewhere. We witnessed Carter Brown gracefully exit the office of President. What an outstanding example of what a president should be! Also, we supported **Dr. Mark Donald** as he was inducted as our new national AGD president. We are looking forward to outstanding leadership again from our Mississippi brethren.

One area of disappointment was that we had no Alabama dentists to achieve Fellow or Master status this year. ALAGD is partnering with UAB SOD to get our Mastership Track Program back in place.

Now it's time for us to focus on the Sandestin meeting – our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review of Dentistry, on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. This promises to be a great meeting for us this year with the Mississippi partnership.

I want to thank our corporate sponsors of all levels – Gold, Silver, and Bronze – as well as our exhibitors. These meetings would be impossible to hold without them. This year, in alphabetical order, I would like to thank our Gold Corporate Sponsors – Burdette Dental Laboratory, Coltene, Mini Implant Solutions, Oral Arts Dental Laboratory, Patterson Dental, and Straumann Implants. Our Silver Corporate Sponsors are Dental Team Performance and Shofu, and Bronze Corporate Sponsors are 360 Imaging, ProAssurance, and Procter & Gamble. **We are very grateful for their support.**

Looking forward to seeing you all at Sandestin!

Douglas Beckham, DMD, FAGD, and President, Alabama AGD

# ALAGD LEADERSHIP AT THE ALDA

## ALABAMA HEROES IN DENTAL PROFESSION

**A**LAGD is certainly in the forefront of leadership in the dental profession of Alabama. We are so proud of **Dr. Calvin McCulloh**, who recently was awarded the Fuller Award. **The Fuller Award** is the highest praise for an alumnus of the School of Dentistry.

Calvin has been on the front line of our profession for his whole career. He has been active in the AGD and ADA, both on local and national levels, while maintaining a thriving private dental practice in Vestavia before his retirement. He served a term of four years as the **Regent for the American College of Dentists**.

**Dr. Bill Ingram** is now **President of ALDA**. In addition, he has been an ADA Delegate, is Past-President of ALAGD, and has been active in our profession since graduation from Alabama's SOD.

**Dr. Gary Myers** is the **President-Elect for ALADA**. He is so involved in organized dentistry that we would need a full page to list details.

**Dr. Gordon Isbell, III** is the newly elected **ALDA Vice President**. Gordon is another ALAGD member who is a strong leader in whatever effort he undertakes.

Alabama AGD is rightfully proud of each one of these dedicated AGD members for stepping up to the plate to do his part to improve dentistry.



*President Beckham conducts the ALAGD Board meeting during the ALDA meeting.*



*During the ALDA Awards Breakfast AGD board member Kim Steigler received the Most Excellent Fellow Award from ALDA*



*Dr. Doug Beckham, ALAGD current President, receives the Most Excellent Fellow Award.*



*Dr. Calvin McCulloh was awarded the Fuller Award during the Alumni Luncheon at the ALDA meeting. Shown here with his wife Shirley.*



*Dr. McCulloh shown here with Alumni President Ray McLaughlin and Alumni President Elect Gary Myers.*



*Here Dr. McCulloh is flanked by all of the ALAGD Past Presidents at the meeting.*



*The full line up of ALDA officers.*



*The new officers of the Alabama Dental Association: Gary Myers, President Elect; Bill Ingram, President; and Gordon Isbell III, Vice President. All three are ALAGD Past Presidents and all have been awarded the Mastership of the AGD.*



*Dr. Bill Ingram assumed the Presidency of the Alabama Association.*

## SENIOR DENTAL STUDENT BANQUET AT THE BIRMINGHAM COUNTRY CLUB



*Dr. Beckham addresses the Senior class from the SOD at the Senior Banquet.*



*Congratulations to the DeShazer family. Daughter, Claire, was among this 2015 graduating class. Proud daddy is a Past President of the ALAGD. Left to right: Daniel Leverton, Dr. Claire Leverton, Dianne DeShazer, and Dr. Bob DeShazer*

# AGD SAN FRANCISCO

The 2015 AGD annual national meeting was held in the exciting city of San Francisco. AGD members had the opportunity to take advantage of this wonderful California jewel of a town for a few days.

There is so much to take in as a tourist—China Town, the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, the magnificent redwoods located nearby, the wine country of Napa and Sonoma. Why, there was something for everyone—unless one happened to be involved in the Governance part of the meeting.

Sadly, Delegates have no opportunity to take advantage of the excellent CE or city sights/ lights, for their time is filled with attending the required business sessions—House of Delegates, Reference Committees, and Town Hall Meetings.

The meeting was a fine one, and national AGD President, **Dr. Carter Brown**, aided by his able Annual Meeting Council and Local Arrangements Committee, are to be commended. As always, Alabama was well-represented by Delegates **Gary Myers**, **Doug Beckham**, **Bill Chesser**, and **Howard Gamble**.

Alabamians honored at the June meeting included **Dr. Gordon Isbell, III**, given the **Distinguished Service Award** for his work with the AGD, the ADA, and many community affiliations. **Dr. Gary Myers** received a **Presidential Citation** for his work in helping to acquire the new AGD Headquarters in Chicago.

Another UAB School of Dentistry graduate, Troy's **Dr. T. Bob Davis**, now of Dallas, Texas, received a citation for his work in the AGD, ADA, and the mission field over the last forty years.

Our state AGD organization was honored to receive the **2015 CE Award of Excellence**, as well as **Honorable Mention for the ACE Award**.

Next summer the national meeting will be held in **Boston**, yet another beautiful city for family vacations and brisk weather. Plan your **2016** calendar around this **July 14-17** event.



*We were welcomed to San Francisco by these colorful Chinese Dragons.*



*Dr. Carter Brown makes his opening remarks to the House of Delegates. Carter is to be congratulated for his outstanding year as President of the AGD.*



*Dr. Manuel Cordero, won the position of Vice President of AGD. He served as the AGD Secretary for two years.*



*Dr. Gordon Isbell addresses the House of Delegates after accepting the Distinguished Service Award.*



*Dr. Neal Gajjar of Canada was elected as AGD Secretary.*



*The whole Region 19 Delegation*

*The new AGD Officers are installed.*



*Award recipient Dr. Gordon Isbell shown with Dr. John Comisi (left) and Dr. Gary Myers (right).*

*On behalf of the ALAGD Dr. Doug Beckham accepts the CE Award of Excellence.*

*Dr. Mark Donald of Mississippi gives his first address to the House as President of the AGD.*



*Dr. Gary Myers receives a Presidential Citation from President Carter Brown for his work in heading the Real Estate Task Force which led to the purchase of the new AGD Building.*



*Dr. Bryan Edgar was successful in his bid for Speaker of the House.*



*Family photo (left to right): Cindy Isbell, Timothy Isbell, Dr. Ross Isbell, and Award recipient Dr. Gordon Isbell.*





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*Dr. Howard Gamble is gowned and ready to assist with the Convocation ceremony. Howard is a Past President of the AGD and is called upon to help with the awards for Masters and Fellows. Howard is the only national AGD President from Alabama. He also served two terms as Speaker of the House of Delegates.*