

Chronicle

A.A.W.D.

American Association of Women Dentists

February 2015
Vol. 10, Issue 1

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American Association of
Women Dentists
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Chicago, IL 60606
312.263.1822 | 800.920.2293
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FEBRUARY
is Children's Dental
Health Month!



2015 Board of Directors Installed in San Antonio



2015 AAWD Board of Directors at the Warwick Allerton in Chicago

Pictured: Bottom row: Pia Chatterjee-Kirk, Karyl Patten, Judith Belitz, Vishruti Patel.

Top Row, Mary Licking, Lilia Larin, Puja Sangoi, April Hearn, Mary Martin, Sheri Doniger, Griselle Ortiz-Ramsey, Debbie Gidley.

Sheri Doniger, DDS, Lincolnwood, IL was installed as the 94th president of the American Association of Women Dentists on October 9, 2014 during AAWD's Annual Meeting – "Leading the Future of Dentistry" in San Antonio, TX.

"I look forward to leading AAWD in 2015 and forwarding the organization's newly worded mission - AAWD– *the leading resource for advancing, connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists.*"

Leading the future for AAWD 2015 are:

Executive Committee:

Dr. Sheri Doniger, President, Lincolnwood, IL
Dr. Tawana Lee-Ware, Immediate Past President, Indianapolis, IN
Dr. Mary Martin, President-Elect, Oklahoma City, OK
Dr. Griselle Ortiz-Ramsey, Vice President, Vandalia, OH
Dr. Karyl Patten, Secretary, Atlanta, GA
Dr. Lilia Larin, Treasurer, San Diego, CA
Dr. Judith Belitz, Editor, Omaha, NE

The 2015 AAWD Board of Directors:

Dr. Tanya M. Gibson, Director of Academic Affairs
Dr. Mary Licking, Director of Archives
Dr. Margaret Scarlett, Director of Corporate Relations
Dr. Daphne Ferguson Young, Director of Federal Services
Dr. Brittany Bergeron, Director of Local Chapters
Dr. Pia Chatterjee-Kirk, Director of Member Benefits & Values
Dr. Vishruti Patel, Director of Public Relations
Dr. April Hearn, Director Professional Organizations
Dr. Jae Gymes, Director of Student Chapters
Dr. Lauren Aguilar (U of Maryland, Class of 2015), Student Rep.
Dr. Puja Sangoi (U of Louisville Class of 2016), Student Rep.

The American Association of Women Dentists is the premier organization for women dentists dedicated to being the *leading resource for advancing, connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists.* For more information on AAWD and its activities, log on to www.aawd.org.

The board met in Chicago on January 9 to plan out its goals for the coming year and to lay out a 5-year strategic plan. The 2015 board faced -35 degree wind chills in Chicago (now that's dedication!) and are looking forward to meeting in Chicago again in February under milder conditions.



President's Message

Thank you for this incredible honor, to be the next President of the American Association of Women Dentists.

For those of you who don't know me, I have been quietly involved with AAWD for many years. I became more active after my friend, **Dr. Trucia Drummond**, asked me to serve as Editor of the Chronicle, over fifteen years ago. In addition to serving as Editor, I have worked with Corporate Relations for several years.

It has been a privilege to work with this amazing group of women, who have taken the lead of this great organization. I was very happy doing my support

role until some gentle prodding from **Dr. Judi Belitz** and **Dr. Jean Furuyama** who gently pushed me to move up the ladder. I am humbled to be leading the women of all the generations in ours, the best profession for women today.

The vista of dentistry has changed over the past thirty years, and I may say, it is a wonderful time to be a woman in dentistry. Since my graduation in 1983, women are on the road to being equity partners in this profession. My dental school class had twenty-nine women out of a class of one hundred fifty one graduates. Fast forward to 2014 to see a completely different class composition, with over fifty percent of the pre doctoral candidates now comprised of women. Looking over just the past twenty years, the percentage of women dentists has increased over two hundred and ten percent. Thirty seven percent of all practicing dentists are now women.

Remarkably, according to **Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin**, the Executive Director of the ADA, in a recent presentation to the Dental Trade Alliance during this past Chicago MidWinter meeting, the market of women dentists continues to rise where as the market for male dentists is decreasing. The number of total women dentists in the U.S. has risen from 10.9% in 1993 to 26.2% in 2012. Over seventy-nine percent of all women practitioners are practice owners. Those are all great numbers! It is definitely getting better for us. [#thefuturelooksbright](#)

When I started my practice life, it was impossible to acquire a business loan without the guarantee of my parents and my husband. Banks would not look at you. I was a Doctor with a potential long-term business and earning power. Now, many more banks are willing, and even competing, to give money to women dentists as they definitely feel we are a good stable investment. We repay our loans. Interestingly, although dental school indebtedness is always high, women are trending towards slightly lower financial obligations at the end of school, although the total amount is definitely significant. [#womenownedbusinessrule](#)

Thirty years ago, women in dental school used the same equipment as the men and "liked it". Once we graduated and entered into practice, there were few options with regard to a different hand size or body shape. Now, some forward thinking manufacturers are assessing the different ergonomic needs of the various dental end users by offering alternative options for handpieces, seating, and instruments. Women no longer have to enter into a "one size fits all" for capital purchases, office design or style; we now have options. Moreover, we know that women represent the largest purchasing market; hence, even though many manufacturers continue to market mainly to men, those who focus on women will be in a strategic place for success. [#women ergonomics](#) working with the dental industry. Looking at the leadership of many of the dental organizations, we see a vast majority of males, though women are definitely on the rise. Women do have some impediments, as we are now attempting to gain the same leadership roles as our male counterparts have had for decades. It takes drive and perseverance to break through the glass ceiling. Women are increasing their representation in national, state and local leadership in addition to dental school deans. Our current ADA President Elect, **Dr. Maxine Feinberg**, is a perfect role model. It is not parity, but it has come a long way over the past thirty years. The American Association of Women Dentists, our organization approaching its centennial anniversary, is the ONLY group that is comprised solely of women leaders. AAWD is uniquely more diverse than any other dental organization by the virtue of its representing the wide variety of women currently serving in dentistry. Many of our members do go on to leadership roles in various local, state and national dental organizations. I am proud to be accepting the Presidency for the year 2015, thirty-one years after my graduation from a male orientated class. (My mission for AAWD is to mentor the women leaders of the future and work with industry to be the source for.) [#leadingthefutureofdentistry](#)

I have several people to thank, as many leaders, mentors and family members have graced the path to my Presidency. Thanks to **Dr. Jean Furuyama** and **Dr. Judi Belitz** for pushing me. Thanks to two women who are not here today, but I am completely convinced they are watching and smiling somewhere: **Dr. Jane Selbe** and **Dr. Fae Ahlstrom**. They were great women leaders during a time when we did not have our great numbers of women practitioners, as well as great role models. I also would like to thank **Dr. Tawana Ware** for your great leadership, vision, mentorship and very tall shoes to follow! I would also like to thank the Illinois State Dental

AAWD 2015 Board of Directors

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April Hearn DDS

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Jae Grymes DDS

Student Representative

Lauren Aguilar, University of Maryland

Student Representative

Puji Sangoi, University of Louisville

Executive Director

Debbie Gidley

President, Smiles for Success

Jennifer Cornell DDS

President's Message *continued*

Society and Chicago Dental Society, as well as the American Dental Association for welcoming us to your meeting. Finally, I would like to thank my husband of thirty-five years, **Bob Pollyea**, who is always in the background, for his support and patience. I would not have been able to achieve anything without his support and encouragement. [#lifepartner](#)

I truly look forward to working with our board in creating the future leaders of dentistry.

[#letsparty!](#)

Sheri

Sheri B. Doniger, DDS

2015 President, American Association of Women Dentists

It's not just about fixing
one smile...

...it's about changing lives.



Smiles for Success

The Smiles for Success program offers cost-free dental care for women graduates of accredited job readiness and placement programs, thus helping those who are helping themselves. The dental care offered is meant to be a short-term solution for those who need treatment as they move from public assistance to the working world. A beautiful smile is truly an asset when interviewing for a job. Many women are self-conscious and embarrassed as they attempt to hide decayed, missing and damaged teeth on job interviews.

Smiles for Success provides an opportunity for the dental community to effectively assist women in reaching their goal to obtain employment by giving them a competitive edge in the job market by enhancing their appearance and self-esteem.

Volunteer dentists around the country participate by helping to restore oral health and a confident smile.

For more information visit www.smilesforsuccess.org.

Questions? Call the Smiles for Success office at 800.920.2293.

Contribute to the success of a woman! Sign up as a volunteer today!
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Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the prestigious Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award.

Lucy Hobbs Taylor was born on March 14, 1833 in Constable, New York. In 1859, she moved to Cincinnati, intending to become a dentist. When she was refused admission to dental school, she began a private program of study with a professor from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.

After studying dentistry, Lucy Hobbs Taylor started her own practice in Cincinnati in 1861. In 1865, she finally gained some professional recognition when she was allowed to join the Iowa State Dental Society. That November, she entered the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, where she soon earned her doctorate in dentistry, becoming the first woman in the U.S. to do so. In honor of Lucy Hobbs Taylor, each year AAWD presents a Lucy Hobbs Taylor award to a woman dentist who:

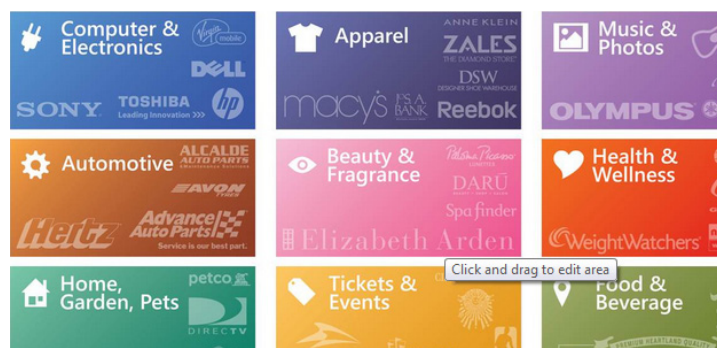
- Has made outstanding individual achievements in civic, cultural, academic and professional areas.
- Exhibits role model qualities that positively reflect the image of women dentists and commitment to the profession.
- Is an AAWD member in good standing.

The 2015 recipient will be presented during the 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, Friday, November 6 2015.

To download a nomination form, click [here](#).

Nominations are due by June 1, 2015 and the winner will be notified by AAWD Headquarters.

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[*] Based on research by Strategic Data Marketing. Dental product categories include chairs, delivery systems, lights, and cabinetry.

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Board Nominations

2016 Board Nominations Open!

The American Association of Women Dentists is calling for nominations for officers and directors. Nominations are now being accepted for several directorships for this voluntary organization whose mission is *"AAWD – the leading resource for advancing, connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists."*

The candidate must be a current AAWD member in good standing with the desire to lead the organization into its next phase of growth and policy leadership.

Prior leadership experience would be beneficial, but is not a necessity. Time commitments vary by position, with a minimum of 10 hours a month in most positions. All positions must contribute uncompensated travel to national meetings.

Self-nominations are encouraged. Please complete a [nomination form](#) and send with your resume to the American Association of Women Dentists via e-mail to info@aawd.org or by mail **no later than July 1, 2015**.

For more information on any of the positions list, call AAWD Headquarters at (800) 920-2293. The 2015 Slate of Officers will be announced at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.



February is Children's Dental Health Month

In celebration of Children's Dental Health Month, here are a few reminders for the woman dentist to consider based on the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry guidelines.

For more information please refer to:
www.aapd.org/policies&guidelines.

1. Good perinatal oral health is essential for the overall health and well being for the mother and her newborn child. Care of the pediatric patient begins with mom!
2. All children should have their first dental visit no later than their first birthday. This helps to establish a dental home for children where comprehensive care is assessable in a family-centered environment and includes referral to dental specialists when appropriate.
3. Pediatric patients involved in sports should be encouraged to wear mouth guards. These soft plastic appliances can protect the teeth, lips, cheeks, and gums of children from sports related injuries.

**** AAWD members, please get involved in Give Kids a Smile, screenings, or other programs in February promoting children's oral health!**

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Speaker's Bureau

AAWD Members: Are you a Speaker?

Do you want be listed on AAWD's Speaker's Bureau? AAWD is a great resource if you are a dental speaker.

Please send your current C.V. and list of speaking topics for our database. Send them to info at info@aawd.org or simply update your profile in the online membership directory.



Colgate Research Awards

The Colgate Research Scholarship Award is presented to Junior and/or Senior dental students, who have shown academic distinction and demonstration of excellence in research. Eligibility: Junior and/or Senior dental students and must be an AAWD member.

To apply, [download an application here](#).

Complete it and return on or before April 1, 2015. *Questions?* Call AAWD Headquarters at (800) 920-2293.

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Member News



Dr. Ann Kunkel

Dr. Ann Kunkel spoke to the Rochester NY chapter of the Seattle Study Club in November on "The Pleasures and Perils of Associateships and Partnerships". She is the president of Empower Dental Consulting, and coaches dentists on the business aspects of working with each other.



Dr. Griselle Ortiz-Ramsey

Dr. Griselle Ortiz-Ramsey has been elected to the Board of Directors Dayton Dental Society.



Dr. Karyl Patten

Dr. Karyl Patten was selected as the provider of the year by the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care Peach Awards-Oct 2014.



From the Director of Archives

Dr. Mary Licking

As you may be aware, AAWD is looking forward to its 100th anniversary celebration. Our organization was founded in 1921. To prepare, I have been spending time in the AAWD archives. The celebration is a great occasion to publicize the wonderful things AAWD has been involved in over the past

50 years. At the celebration of 1971, much was brought regarding AAWD's formative years. Our emphasis at the 100th anniversary will be from 1971 – 2021.

Certain trends are recognizable from the archives regarding the second fifty years. AAWD considerably raised its profile. Two AAWD presidents during their terms in office met with the President of the United States. AAWD had contact with women dentists internationally and contact with international leaders, such as from the countries of Norway and Great Britain. The Journal of the American Dental published an article on the subject of AAWD. Other publications such as one by the Association of Army Dentistry have made mention of AAWD. Major dental meetings have welcomed AAWD's presence in a number of ways, such as receiving the President of AAWD and, such as in the case of the Chicago Dental Society, inviting AAWD to provide a speaker under its banner. AAWD developed scholarship programs that attracted a steady stream of applicants and generated positive publicity. Similarly, the other AAWD awards programs gained mentions in various publications.

Oklahoma Association of Women Dentists Presents:

Technology Night OAWD Spring Meeting

Thursday, February, 19, 2015

6:30 – 9:00 pm

At the Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City

Cost to Attend: FREE

CE: 2 Hours

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Student News

UF AAWD Makes Dental Education Fun with a New Girl Scout Badge That You Can Bring to Your Local Community

by Michelle L. Thomas – University of Florida College of Dentistry



The University of Florida Student Chapter of AAWD kicked off their community service for the Fall 2014 Semester with a brand new dental health badge program for the Daisy Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. Disappointed by the fact that there was no oral health badge program in place for local girl scouts, Michelle Thomas, UF AAWD's treasurer and a former girl scout, created a program using the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains Dental Health Program as well as elementary school programs she had previously participated in as a guide. The new program contains requirements meant to combine dental education with fun activities all while highlighting important girl scout outcomes including developing a strong sense of self, practical life skills, and seeking challenges.

The University of Florida College of Dentistry is located in an area where children have extensive dental needs. In fact, according to data collected by the University of Florida in 2013, 30.5% of third grade Alachua County children have untreated cavities and 49% have caries experience before the age of ten. Florida is also one of only two states in the nation to receive a failing grade two years in

a row for children's oral health. UF AAWD's hope is that the creation of a dental health badge for young girl scouts in our community will assist in laying a better oral health foundation, demonstrate the importance and ease of dental health, and lower the chances of more young children following in the footsteps of the current statistics.

The new program consists of four fun segments that help girls learn how to keep their teeth and gums healthy, what to expect when going to the dentist to eliminate any fear or uncertainty, how to brush their teeth, proper nutrition and oral health practices, and basic tooth anatomy all while making bracelets, dancing to Taylor Swift, playing with play dough, and coloring. The program in its entirety lasts 1.5 hours and each girl scout works one-on-one with an AAWD member.

With the sponsorship of the UF College of Dentistry, UF's AAWD was able to provide this program completely free of charge as well as send each girl who completed the program home with a goodie bag that included a toothbrush, flossers, a take-home OHI sheet, toothpaste, and a dental health badge to be ironed on to the participating girl scouts' vest. The girls also brought home oral health reminder bracelets that they made during one of the segments as well as a tooth anatomy sheet that they colored. UF AAWD is very excited about their new program and happy that they are now able to provide dental health education to a group of young girl scouts who lack complete dental health knowledge and were previously unable to earn a badge of this nature. UF AAWD will also be expanding the program to include brownie girl scouts in the spring 2015 semester and plan on continuing the program for many years to come in hopes that it will help make a difference in Alachua County dental statistics.

At the present time, earning a dental health badge is not available in the majority of the girl scout councils throughout the United States but together, we can change this. We would love for our program to be utilized in other AAWD chapters so more girl scouts throughout the country can earn a dental health badge. If your doctoral or student chapter would like full details and instructions for our program so you can bring it to your community, we would love to share it! Please contact UF AAWD Treasurer, Michelle Thomas, at mthomas@dental.ufl.edu.



Student News

Remember:

AAWD Membership - Student members – It's renewal time! Watch your mail for your renewal notices. If you plan to send your renewals in together as a chapter, remember:

- All members of your chapter should be AAWD members to be in compliance with AAWD Bylaws.
- Student membership dues are \$55 per year.
- AAWD now offers a 4-year member dues rate for D1 students.
- AAWD will rebate your chapter \$10 for every chapter member who joins.
- Complete your chapter's student officer roster (must be done on a yearly basis).

The most effective way to make sure all your chapter members are credited to your chapter is to download a membership application [here](#). Have each chapter member complete the form and return it with their payment. Make sure they complete the section that asks "Chapter Name." You can collect the applications and return them as a group.

Don't forget – AAWD is a resource for you and your chapter. Let us know how we can help you at www.aawd.org, info@aawd.org or 312.263.1822. Send us your student news and photos so others can see all the wonderful things you are doing throughout the year.

AAWD warmly welcomes
the following new
Student chapter to AAWD:



**West Virginia University,
School of Dentistry**

For more information on starting a chapter
a your school, contact, [Dr. Jae Grymes](#),
Director of Local Chapters.

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American Association of Women Dentists

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Women dentists are the future of dentistry and AAWD is growing – join us now and show women dentists your support.

Learn more by downloading our current [Sponsorship opportunities booklet](#), or contact AAWD HQ at info@aawd.org for more information.

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January 2015

January 28 - February 1
Yankee Dental Congress
Boston, MA

February 2015

February 26 - 28
Chicago Dental Society
Mid Winter Meeting
Chicago, IL

Thursday, February 26
AAWD Presentation at the Chicago Dental
Society MidWinter Meeting
Dr. Tawana-Lee Ware presents
"Mom: The New Pediatric Patient"
1:30 - 4:30 pm
Course F174
Learn more [here](#).

March 2015

March 8 - 10
ADEA Annual Meeting
Atlanta, GA

March 26-28
Hinman Dental Meeting
Atlanta, GA

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Did you know? AAWD is an Alliance Partner in the **Healthy Mouths Health Lives Campaign**, which promotes the 2min2xper day? Learn more and help spread the word: <http://www.2min2x.org/>

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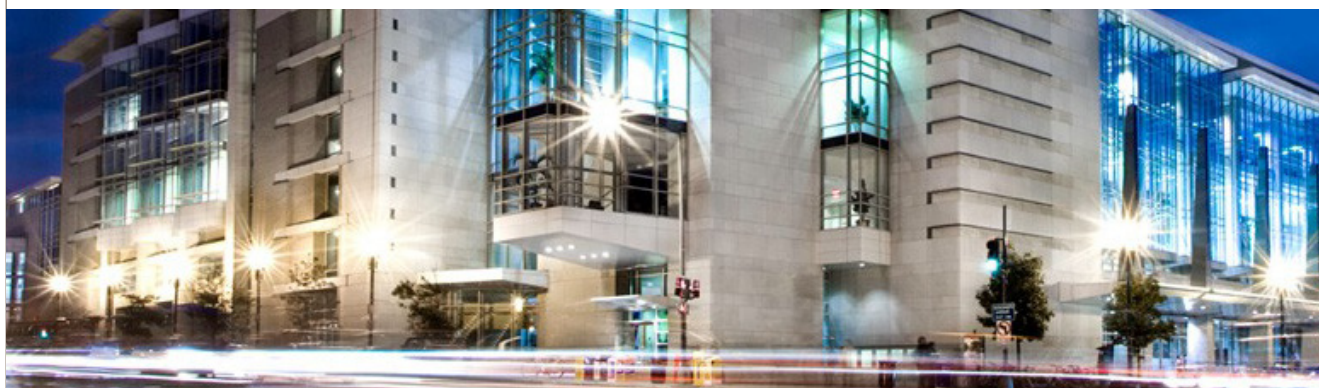
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AAWD's 94th Annual Meeting

Friday, November 6, 2015

Washington, DC | Washington Convention Center



SAVE THE DATE!

Watch this space for details – coming soon!