



Golf Tourney Another Success!

As evidenced by the photos, this year's golf tournament was another smashing success. Everyone who attended enjoyed a great day of golf, delicious food, laughter, and fun fellowship.



Above: Co-Chairs Doctors Fred Bonacci and J.R. Karam did a fine job organizing a fantastic day.



Doctors Louis Gennello and Al Matrone take in the course.



Right: Penn Security's Drew Kettel, pictured center with Treasurer Dr. Jessica Falk and Co-Chair Dr. Fred Bonacci, donates \$1,000 to sponsor part of the Tournament.

SDDS Donates to The Arc During Annual Golf Tourney

As part of our on-going commitment to support our local community, The Scranton District Dental Society donated \$1,000 to The Arc, a local charity dedicated to securing for each individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to realize personal dreams through choice in how one lives, learns, works and enjoys life.

The Arc partners with SDDS each year to prepare thousands of gift bags for local children during National Children's Dental Health Month in February. According to

Golf Co-Chair Dr. Fred Bonacci, "The Arc has supported SDDS and the children of this community for years. We wanted to show them our appreciation and give something back."

The annual golf tournament, held in June at The Scranton Country Club, was sponsored by Penn Security Bank, Biohorizons, Schein, Nobel Biocare, Proctor and Gamble, Newtech Dental Lab, Dailey Dental, and Associate Dental.

Thank you to all who generously donated.



Radiology Update Course

If you haven't already signed up for the Continuing Education radiology course sponsored by the SDDS, time is running out. There are a limited number of seats for this mandatory course, required by the DEP Bureau of Radiation Protection Registrant Responsibilities. This requirement is found in Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code in section 221.11(b).

The special Continuing Education course will be presented exclusively for our members and their staff in order to satisfy this requirement. It will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at Genetti Manor in Dickson City, PA, 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Remember, anyone working with X-ray's must have these Continuing Education credits.

The cost is \$30 per member doctor and \$10 per staff member. The morning session is already sold-out, so be sure to send in your registration form today or contact Dr. Joseph T. Kelly, Jr. at 570-587-4787 or kellydentalcare@gmail.com with any questions.

The course will focus on the management of ionizing radiation in dental practice with special emphasis on the following topics:

- A review of radiation, units of measurements of exposure and dose
- The ALARA concept
- Shielding, facility design and records requirements
- Occupational dose and the pregnant worker

- Minimizing patient radiation dose
- Digital imaging quality assurance
- Preventive maintenance programs
- Laws that regulate the use of ionizing radiation in dental practice



PA Dentists May Be Required to Purchase Malpractice Insurance

Reprinted from The Patriot-News. Published: Monday, August 01, 2011, 7:11 PM

Most dentists in Pennsylvania carry malpractice insurance, but currently, they aren't required to do so. Senator Pat Vance, R-Cumberland County, has sponsored a bill requiring dentists to purchase malpractice insurance. The state Senate unanimously approved the bill in June, and it is now in the state House of Representatives. The Legislature is in recess for the summer.

Vance introduced the bill after hearing reports of patient abuse in Reading, Berks County, and other areas of the state.

Dentists who didn't buy insurance could lose their license under the bill.

"Most responsible and group dentists already carry this kind of insurance anyway," Vance said. "But unfortunately, the rogue dentists we really need to have this kind of coverage, to protect the consumer, are the ones who don't."

Dentists would be required to purchase liability insurance of \$3 million annually. That amount of malpractice coverage would cost the average Pennsylvania dentist about \$2,400 annually, according to Gil

Davis, CEO of Pennsylvania Dental Association Insurance Services.

That average is driven up by rates in the southeastern part of the state. The average in Delaware and Montgomery counties is about \$2,700. Philadelphia's rate is closer to \$4,500.

Local dentist Dr. Michael Verber called the bill "a good example of good government." "I already have that amount of coverage, and most dentists in the state do as well," Verber said. "With this measure, the government will be able to increase the quality of health care without dramatically increasing the burden on doctors or patients."

Dr. Craig Mathias, a Harrisburg orthodontist, said new malpractice insurance requirements would be "another unnecessary expense." "As an orthodontist, I've got a different level of liability, so we do already carry an adequate amount of insurance in my office," Mathias said. "I've got about half of that right now." Mathias said picking up the rest "wouldn't be a nail in the coffin. More like a tack to have to sit on."

Davis said the average malpractice claim against dentists is only about \$20,000. Davis didn't have a number of claims typically filed in a year, but said there "is not a significant number."

Dr. Dennis Charlton, president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association and a dentist in Mercer County, said his organization supports the legislation. "Nearly all dentists in the commonwealth already have this level of malpractice insurance and this law will bring our malpractice requirements to the same level as other professionals in the state," Charlton said.

Ronald Ruman, press secretary for the Department of State, said the agency "supports the general concept to require dentists to carry professional liability insurance." The state department oversees the licensing of dentists. Ruman added that, because some details of the measure are likely to be debated and changed in the House, the department "will wait to see the final version before taking a position on the legislation in its final form."

From the President

As summer begins to wind down in the upcoming weeks, I am hoping all of our members and their families have had a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable season. With all of the activities, vacations, and family events that take place it seems to go by faster each and every year.

The SDDS hosted several successful events this summer including its annual golf outing organized by Doctors Karam and Bonacci. Over 40 members were involved in the event. The family night at the Yankees game organized by Dr. Wadsworth continues to be a favorite, especially for the numerous children who participate.

We will begin our general meetings on Tuesday, September 6th, at the University of Scranton where we will honor Dr. Charlie Potter for serving as the SDDS CE coordinator for over 30

years! Without his efforts, most of the events we participate in as SDDS members would not be possible. Please make every effort to attend this special event.

Our October meeting will also be held at the University of Scranton. A post card with dates and locations was recently sent to our members.

On November 9th, the SDDS will be hosting a members' only course that will satisfy DEP requirements for doctors and staff taking x-rays. Attendance is limited; please contact Dr. Joe Kelly to reserve a spot.

Please enjoy the last few weeks of summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Angelo, DMD



*2011 SDDS President,
Todd M. Angelo, DMD*

Third District November Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Third District Continuing Education Course on November 11, 2011 at the Woodlands.

The speaker will be Dr. Gary Jones, Oral surgeon from Temple University's Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry. He will discuss emergencies that often occur in the dental office. Come and support the Third District, led by Luzerne County's Dr. Larry Shire.

ADA News: Dentists, Pharmacists Announce Oral Health Collaboration

The American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, American Academy of Periodontology and American Pharmacists Association announced a collaborative effort to expand awareness of the impact of medications on dry mouth, a condition known to health professionals as xerostomia. More than 500 medications can contribute to oral dryness, said ADA's Aug. 11 announcement, which offers further detail. *Taken from the ada.org.*

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September's Meeting At University of Scranton

Join us in celebrating Dr. Charlie Potter for his years of dedication to the SDDS Continuing Education program during our September meeting.

It will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at The University of Scranton, DeNaples Center – Room 405.

We will be honoring Dr. Potter for his many years of service to our society and the Third District so don't miss it!

As always, the general meeting offers a complimentary dinner to any SDDS member, with a cash bar available. Please let Dr. Matt Zale know if you'll be attending by either calling 383-5300 or emailing at mattzale1@gmail.com.

*Looking Forward to
Seeing You at our
September 6th Meeting
at the University of
Scranton!*

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting	Sibo's	August 29, 2011	6:00 p.m.
General Meeting	U of S – DeNaples Center, Rm 405	Sept. 6, 2011	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	U of S – Brennan Hall Rose Room	Oct. 4, 2011	6:30 p.m.
ADA's Annual Session	Las Vegas	Oct. 10-13, 2011	
Radiology Course	Genetti Manor	Nov. 9, 2011	12:30 p.m.
Third District CE Course	East Mountain Inn	Nov. 11, 2011	8:00 a.m.

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