

SDDS

SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

Fall 2026

SDDS Featured in Pennsylvania Dental Journal

Our Children's Dental Health Month outreach receives statewide recognition

The Scranton District Dental Society was proud to be featured in the May/June 2026 edition of the Pennsylvania Dental Journal for our National Children's Dental Health Month activities.

Under the direction of Dr. Thomas Langan, Jr., SDDS once again spent February helping children learn the importance of good oral health through fun, community-based activities.

Our longtime partners, Mueller Family McDonald's, hosted the Tooth Fairy and Poppy Troll at locations in South Scranton, North Scranton, Carbondale and Keyser Oak. Children enjoyed photos, arts and crafts, and dental hygiene giveaway bags.

SDDS also continued its tradition of partnering with a local library. At the Carbondale Public Library, the Tooth Fairy read stories about dental health,



posed for photos and helped children with a special "tooth art" project.

Another major part of the campaign

was our partnership with The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which helped prepare more than 3,000 giveaway bags filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, coloring sheet and McDonald's coupon. The bags were distributed to SDDS members visiting schools and educational facilities throughout the month.

The Pennsylvania Dental Journal highlighted Children's Dental Health Month efforts from across the state, and we were pleased to see SDDS

recognized among them.

Thank you to Dr. Langan, our participating members, The Arc NEPA, Mueller Family McDonald's and all of our community partners for helping us spread healthy smiles throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.



General Meeting

Meet Two of Our Newest Members at the October General Meeting

Join us for the next SDDS General Meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2026, at A/V Restaurant, for an evening of great food, conversation and professional connection. The evening will feature two of our newest SDDS members, Dr. Ryan Zapoticky and Dr. Kaleigh Lombardo, giving members the opportunity to welcome them to the Society and learn more about their work. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and an engaging evening featuring our guest speakers. Best of all, cocktails, dinner and the program are complimentary for SDDS members. Reservations, however, are imperative so we can properly plan for the evening. To reserve your spot, email revenue@comcast.net no later than October 14. We hope you'll join us for an enjoyable evening and help us give Dr. Zapoticky and Dr. Lombardo a warm SDDS welcome!



President's Dinner Scheduled

An Evening to Celebrate Two Presidents

Mark your calendar for an elegant evening as SDDS celebrates two presidents — Dr. Kaitlyn Zefran and Dr. Caitlin Libby — at the 2027 President's Dinner on February 6 at 6 p.m. at Lace Village.

Guests can look forward to a sophisticated evening featuring cocktails, an exquisite dinner exclusively catered by Epicurean Delight, and dancing to the sounds of Group du Jour. The popular Northeastern Pennsylvania band is known for keeping dance floors full with music spanning today's hits and

favorites from decades past.

It promises to be a memorable night of celebration, great food, music and fellowship as we honor the leadership of Drs. Zefran and Libby.

Watch your inbox and mailbox for your official invitation and complete event details.



President's Letter

Happy fall, everyone! Pumpkin spice is back, football is underway, and the leaves are starting to show off—so I think it's safe to say that fall has officially arrived! It's hard to believe how quickly the year is moving, and we have plenty of exciting things ahead for the Scranton District Dental Society.

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who came out for our annual golf outing. It was a fantastic event and a great opportunity to step away from the office, enjoy some time on the course, and, most importantly, spend time together with colleagues and friends. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the day such a fun and memorable event.

Looking ahead, we have a General Meeting coming up on October 21, 2026, at AV Restaurant. We are fortunate to have Dr. Ryan Zapoticky and Dr. Kaleigh Lombardo joining us for presentations. I'm looking forward to an evening of education, conversation, and catching up with fellow members. I hope to see many of you there!

And, of course, it's never too early to mark your calendars for the President's Dinner on February 6, 2027, at the Lace Village. We're looking forward to a fun evening together to celebrate the past two years and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our dental society so special. We are looking forward to a wonderful evening and hope you'll join us!

Thank you again for your continued involvement and support of the Scranton District Dental Society. I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meetings and events. Until then, enjoy the fall season!

Warm regards,
Caitlin Libby

SCRANTON DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY
EDUCATION CONNECTIONS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Great Dentistry Brighter Tomorrow

2027 Continuing Education Series

Save the Dates • Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton

Learn Grow Connect Thrive
BETTER DENTISTRY BRIGHTER COMMUNITIES

JAN 20	FEB 3	MAR 17	APR 21
Dental Licensure Requirement Essentials	Treating the Apprehensive & Medically Compromised Patient	Dental Sleep Medicine	A Restorative Ensemble
Autumn Bupp	Dr. Marc Gottlieb	Dr. John Tucker	Dr. James Braun

Register Early & Save >>>
Register at scrantondental.org

PEOPLE EDUCATION PROGRESS HEALTHIER SMILES

Scranton Stronger Together

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ORAL HEALTH

2027 CE Courses Booking Fast!

SDDS has an exciting lineup of continuing education planned for 2027, with four full-day courses at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton.

The series kicks off January 20 with Autumn Bupp covering Dental Licensure Requirement Essentials, followed by Dr. Marc Gottlieb on February 3 with strategies for treating apprehensive and medically compromised patients. On March 17, Dr. John Tucker will focus on Dental Sleep Medicine, and the series concludes April 21 with Dr. James

Braun's restorative dentistry program, "A Restorative Ensemble."

Whether you attend one course or the entire series, these programs are a great opportunity to earn CE credits while bringing practical, current information back to your practice.

Register before the December early-registration deadline to take advantage of reduced tuition rates. Don't wait until the new year to reserve your spot!

Register and pay online by going to: scrantondental.org.

Get Involved: Committee Openings

Please help us serve you better. We still have several committees looking for members. If you are interested, let Dr. Darleen Oleski know. The time commitment is modest, and we need representatives from across the state to ensure all member needs are voiced.

SDDS Honors 2026 Scholarship Recipients

The Scranton District Dental Society is pleased to recognize Patrick Carlton as the 2026 recipient of the Dr. Todd M. Angelo Memorial Scholarship and Aiden Mackrell as the recipient of the Dr. Bernard Shair Memorial Scholarship Award. Both scholarships honor University of Scranton students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, service and promise as they prepare to enter the dental profession.

The Dr. Todd M. Angelo Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Todd Angelo and is funded by SDDS, the Scranton Area Foundation and private donations. The Dr. Bernard Shair Memorial Scholarship Award is funded by SDDS and an endowment established by the family of Dr. Bernard Shair. Both awards are administered by the Scranton Area Foundation.

Patrick Carlton, originally from Vestal, New York, graduated from the University of Scranton in May with a major in biochemistry, a mi-

nor in theology and a concentration in health humanities. A consistent Dean's List student, Carlton was also a standout member of the University's club ice hockey team, earning multiple all-conference and All-Star honors. He is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society, and Phi Lambda Upsilon, the Chemical Honor Society.

Carlton served as treasurer of Ready, Set, Brush! and was a member of the Health Professions Organization. His dental experience includes working as a pediatric dental assistant at Dinosaur Dental in Endicott, New York, and as a student clinical assistant at Electric City Dentistry in Scranton. He has also been active in numerous community service programs. Carlton will begin his studies at Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine this fall.

Aiden Mackrell, a native of Olyphant, graduated from the University of Scranton in May with a major in biology and a minor in biochemistry.

A seven-semester Dean's List honoree and Wegmans scholarship recipient, Mackrell is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society and serves as vice president of Phi Lambda Upsilon Chemical Honorary Society.

Mackrell served as pre-dental chair of the Health Professions Organization and vice president of the Ready! Set! Brush! Dental Club. He gained valuable hands-on experience assisting and shadowing at Century Dental Associates and Electric City Dentistry. His extensive service to the University and community includes mentoring through the S.M.A.R.T. Program, volunteering with the We Care meal program, serving as a F.I.R.S.T. Retreat leader and participating in a service trip to Montana. Mackrell began his dental education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in August.

SDDS congratulates Patrick and Aiden on their accomplishments and wishes them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their dental education.

SDDS Donates to Arc of NEPA

We're happy to announce that we presented a \$2,500 donation to The Arc-NEPA following our annual golf tournament at The Country Club of Scranton, continuing a longstanding partnership. Doctors Alphonse Matrone (Golf Tournament Chair), Caitlin Libby, Joseph Legg Jr., Thomas Langan Jr., Joseph Kelly Jr., and Kurt Wadsworth took part in the check presentation at the conclusion of the tournament.

"Our relationship with The Arc is one of the community partnerships we value most," said Dr. Matrone. "Their team has worked alongside us for many years during National Children's Dental Health Month, helping prepare thousands of oral-health kits for local children. Supporting The Arc through our golf tournament is a meaningful way for SDDS to give back to an organization that does so much for individuals and families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania."

The Arc-NEPA promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supports their full inclusion and participation in the community. The organization provides a range of programs and services for children, adults and families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.



L to R: Alphonse Matrone (Golf Committee Chair), Thomas Langan Jr., Joseph Legg Jr., Caitlin Libby, Joseph Kelly Jr., Kurt Wadsworth, Erica Francis (ARC Coordinator of Community Vocational Services), and Amy Craig (Arc Manager of Adult Day Services).

Important Dates

Board Meeting	AV	October 21, 2026	6:00 PM
General Meeting	AV	October 21, 2026	6:30 PM
CE Course <i>Dental Licensure Requirement Essentials</i>	Radisson	January 20, 2027	8:00 AM
CE Course <i>Strategies for Treating Apprehensive and Medically Compromised Patients</i>	Radisson	February 3, 2027	8:00 AM
President's Dinner	Lace Village	February 6, 2027	6:00 PM
CE Course <i>Dental Sleep Medicine</i>	Radisson	March 17, 2027	8:00 AM
Shair/Angelo Awards Dinner	AV	April 14, 2027	6:30 PM
CE Course <i>A Restorative Ensemble</i>	Radisson	April 21, 2027	8:00 AM

2026 Officers

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Dr. Caitlin Libby

President Elect

Dr. Joseph Legg Jr.

Vice President

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Dr. Alphonse Matrone

Dr. Darleen Oleski

Dr. Charles Scrimalli

Dr. Michael Umerich

Dr. Kurtis Wadsworth

Dr. Matthew Zale

Dr. Kate Zefran

Legislative Update

Thank you Dr. Darleen Oleski for the latest update on our legislative efforts and key advocacy initiatives.

Legislative Session Update

The PDA has been working hard on legislative issues this session. With likely only nine days remaining before election campaigns ramp up, significant movement on our bills is unlikely. Representative Kyle Mullins and Senator Dave Argall have been instrumental in supporting our priority dental issues, including credentialing reforms, network leasing, and dental loss ratio. Please take a moment to thank them for their support.

Legislative Checkup Week (September 14–18)

Please reach out to your local legislators and advocate for change during Legislative Checkup Week. The PDA provides all necessary resources, so you do not need to be an expert on the issues. If you need assistance, please let me know. The more our legislators hear from us, the more progress we can make. We will continue working on insurance reform next session, as we know how challenging this remains for our practices.

Health Policy Institute Report

The Health Policy Institute will soon release a report detailing the extent of dental workforce shortages in Pennsylvania, highlighting the critical need for dentists in rural areas. This report will be shared with our legislators. Additionally, Pennsylvania currently has the lowest insurance reimbursement rates in the country, which is likely a primary reason only 30% of our dental school graduates choose to remain in the Commonwealth.



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