

District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

January 2017, Vol. 62, No. 1



Dr. Thomas Sokoly

A Letter from the DC Dental Society President Thomas Sokoly, DDS

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year! As we begin 2017, I want to make sure that May 5-6, the dates for the Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting, are on your calendar. We need your support to make the meeting a success! Please spread the word and bring your dental team to what promises to be a great event. We're always looking for new exhibitors and sponsors as well, so if you have any contacts or ideas, let me know. We're really working hard to make this meeting a "must go" for dentists and dental professionals in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The DC Dental Society Foundation will be conducting oral cancer screenings again this weekend at the NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, January 7 & 8. Volunteers will be hosting an "Ask an Expert" booth as well as assisting in screenings. Feel free to stop by and say hello! Thank you in advance to all of our wonderful volunteers who have signed up to support this worthwhile event.

We will be kicking off the new year with the monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 10. Dr. Charles Blair will be presenting on "Stay Out of Jail: Top Coding Errors." The networking reception will begin at 5:00 pm, with the business meeting to follow at 5:45 pm. At the business meeting our lobbyist, Brett Greene, will provide an update on D.C.'s Universal Paid Leave Act and answer questions. I hope to see you there.

Because of Valentine's Day, February's monthly meeting will occur on the first Tuesday of the month, February 7. Dr. Joseph Carpentieri will be presenting on "A Hierarchy of Restorative Space Considerations for Implant Dentistry." This is a dinner meeting, so we start at 5:45pm with the business meeting, then the CE presentation with dinner following the presentation. If you have not already, I urge you to remit your 2017 dues payments promptly to avoid any interruption in your membership. *(continued on page 2)*

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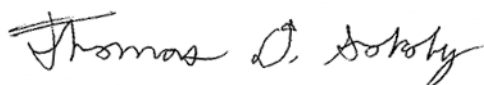


(continued from page 1) Members who have not paid their 2017 dues are now in a grace period until January 31, 2017. You will still be able to attend the January monthly meeting as a member, but after that, you will be charged the nonmember rate for monthly meetings. In addition, members who renew after January 31 will incur a \$100 late fee. So renew now!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions.

We are DCDS: passionate about our profession, our community, and our future!

Sincerely,



Thomas Sokoly, DDS

President, DC Dental Society

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May 5 – 6, 2017

Walter E. Washington
Convention Center
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Renew Your DCDS Membership Now

Thank you for your dedication as a member of the DC Dental Society this past year! Members who have not yet renewed for 2017 are now in a one-month grace period until January 31, 2017. After January 31, members will be assessed a late fee of \$100 in addition to regular dues. Be sure to remain an active part of your national and local dental organizations to stay up-to-date and connected with peers in the field. If you have not yet paid your membership dues, you may do so online using your ADA login credentials.

After January, non-renewing members will be charged the nonmember fee of \$75 for monthly meetings.

In addition to renewing your membership dues, we also ask that you consider making voluntary contributions to the following DCDS-related entities:

- DCDS Foundation — charitable and philanthropic arm of the D.C. Dental Society that supports education, screenings and services for at-need District of Columbia residents. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.
- District of Columbia Dental Political Action Committee (DCDPAC) — voluntary unincorporated committee of individual dentists that advocates on local issues of concern to the dental profession within the District of Columbia.
- American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) — bipartisan voice of thousands of dentists who join together to help elect candidates to federal office who understand the importance of dentistry and dentistry's unremitting commitment to improving oral health care in America.

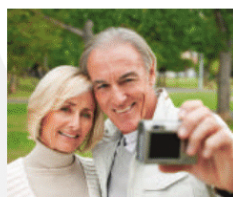
To avoid any disruption in your membership benefits, remit your 2017 membership dues immediately. Please make your check payable to the District of Columbia Dental Society or pay on-line with a credit card.



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Universal Paid Leave Act - Political and Legislative Overview

By Brett O. Greene

The Council debated many initiatives during the legislative period that ended on December 31, but the bill that received a tremendous amount of attention was the "[Universal Paid Leave Amendment Act of 2016](#)." The Council voted to pass the bill by a 9 to 4 vote. The Paid Leave bill will provide employees in the District with eight weeks of parental leave, six weeks family leave and two weeks for personal illness. The leave will be funded through a payroll tax of .62% paid by the employer, generating a maximum \$1,000 weekly benefit. Employees would receive a benefit equaling 90% of their salary, up to 1.5 times the minimum wage, then 50% of their wage, up to the previously stated maximum. The legislation will be sent to Mayor Bowser for her signature and, if approved, forwarded to congress for the mandatory 30-day congressional review. The Mayor has stated that she "will not add" her name to the legislation but has declined to say whether she would veto the bill. Once and if the bill officially becomes law, it will take at least two-and-a half years for the program to be implemented.

Mayor Bowser is nearing the midpoint of her term, and will likely begin campaigning for re-election early 2017. The question remains who will challenge Mayor Bowser. Until then, key priorities for the Mayor are addressing public safety, especially following the departure of Chief Lanier and rising crime and murder rates; appointing a new Chief of Police remains a priority.

The transition in the White House from a Democratic to a Republican platform along with a GOP controlled Congress, may have a direct impact on several efforts in the District such as: budget autonomy; the Affordable Care Act; DC Statehood Initiative; gun control; school vouchers; abortion rights; and medical marijuana.

With the conclusion of DC Council Period 21, all legislative items not approved "die" through lack of action and must be re-introduced in the new council period beginning January 2, 2017. Newly elected Councilmembers Robert White (At-large), Vince Gray (Ward 7), and Trayon White (Ward 8) were sworn in January 2, 2017. Of the thirteen Councilmembers, Mayor Bowser has three reliable allies: Anita Bonds (At-large), Jack Evans (Ward 2), and Brandon Todd (Ward 4) that means a broad majority will not reliably vote to support the Mayor's initiatives. In addition to the swearing in of the newly elected councilmembers, Chairman Mendelson also announced eleven new council committees and chairs for the start of Council Period 22. Vince Gray has been selected to serve as the chair of the Committee on Health. Councilmembers David Grosso, Mary Cheh, Brianne Nadeau and Brandon Todd will serve on the committee.

Brett O. Greene is President and CEO of American Management Corporation, and provides strategic advice and government relations services to DCDS. Mr. Greene will be providing an update on local legislative issues at the January 10th monthly meeting.

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Stay Out of Jail: The Top Coding Errors

January Monthly Meeting

Join us Tuesday, January 10, at the Westin Georgetown for a presentation by Dr. Charles Blair, DDS titled "Stay Out of Jail: The Top Coding Errors."

Session Abstract

Coding errors are predictable in today's dental practice. Learn the top coding errors – and how not to make them! You will also receive new, valuable information on some of the "hot" sections of the CDT code, which you can use to identify and "fix" coding problems that lurk in your practice. Most practices can expect legitimate net increases in cash flow immediately by learning how to do it right.

Based on several thousand dental practices studied, these common problems were identified:

- Consistent Coding Errors
- Clinical Protocol Issues
- Potentially Fraudulent Activities

Dealing with dental insurance is overwhelming but key coding strategies can save you time, prevent hassles, and keep you out of jail. Stop leaving money on the table as PPOs dominate the market place – a tipping point!

For a full description and learning objectives, [click here](#).

Biography

Dr. Charles Blair is dentistry's leading authority on insurance coding strategies, fee positioning and strategic planning. He has individually consulted with thousands of practices, helping them identify and implement new strategies for increasing legitimate reimbursement. Dr. Blair's extensive background and expertise makes him uniquely qualified to share his wealth of knowledge with the dental profession. For more information about Dr. Charles Blair, [click here](#).

Members planning to attend the January meeting should RSVP [online](#), by phone at (202) 367-1163, or via e-mail at info@dcdental.org by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9. Monthly meetings are free to members as a membership benefit. Members may also bring one guest for free.



The DC Dental Society is an ADA CER-P Recognized Provider. ADA CER-P is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CER-P does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. The DC Dental Society designates this activity for 2 continuing education credits.

Presentation Topic

Stay Out of Jail: The Top Coding Errors

Schedule

5:00 p.m. — Networking

Reception (cash bar)

5:45 p.m. — Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. — Presentation

Location

Westin Georgetown

2350 M St NW

Washington, DC 20037

Parking at the Westin

Before 5:00 p.m.: \$15

After 5:00 p.m.: \$10

A Hierarchy of Restorative Space Considerations for Implant Dentistry

February Monthly Meeting

Due to Valentine's Day, the February monthly meeting is February 7, the first Tuesday of the month, at the Westin Georgetown. Dr. Joseph Carpentieri will be presenting on "A Hierarchy of Restorative Space Considerations for Implant Dentistry."

Session Abstract

Implant dentistry is a prosthetic endeavor with a surgical protocol. The basic tenet of implant treatment is to provide patients with a prosthesis that will meet their long-term esthetic, phonetic and functional needs based on highly individualized personal factors. To support this goal, clinicians need to differentiate between numerous prosthetic designs, newer materials and manufacturing options that will achieve a high level of implant success, and prosthesis survival with minimal prosthetic aftercare considerations, which has led to considerable confusion.

Dr. Carpentieri will present a practical, systematic clinical approach that highlights the incorporation of pre-treatment 3-dimensional restorative space assessment (horizontal and vertical) and will discuss its critical relationship in the decision-making process to choose various implant prostheses. These principles are essential and fundamental to the management of the partial and especially the fully edentulous patient and represent an important prerequisite to the treatment planning process.

For the full session abstract, learning objectives, and Dr. Joseph Carpentieri's biography, visit the [DCDS website](#).

Members planning to attend the February meeting should RSVP [online](#), by phone at (202) 367-1163, or via e-mail at info@dcdental.org by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6. Monthly meetings are free to members as a membership benefit. Members may also bring one guest for free.



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Presentation Topic

A Hierarchy of Restorative Space Considerations for Implant Dentistry

Schedule

5:00 p.m. — Registration Opens

5:45 p.m. — Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. — Presentation

Dinner to Follow Presentation

Location

Westin Georgetown

2350 M St NW

Washington, DC 20037

Parking at the Westin

Before 5:00 p.m.: \$15

After 5:00 p.m.: \$10

DEA Changes Registration Renewal Process

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently announced significant changes to its registration renewal process. Effective **January 1, 2017**, the DEA is eliminating the informal grace period which the agency has previously allowed for registrants to renew their registrations. This new policy will include the following:

- Only one renewal notice will be sent to each registrant's "mail to" address approximately 65 days prior to the expiration date; no other reminders to renew the DEA registration will be provided.
- The notice also advises that online capability to renew a DEA registration after the expiration date will no longer be available, and that failure to file a renewal application by midnight EST of the expiration date will result in the "retirement" of the registrant's DEA number.
- The original DEA registration will not be reinstated. In addition, paper renewal applications will not be accepted the day after the expiration date.

If the DEA has not received the paper renewal application by the day of the expiration date, mailed in renewal applications will be returned and the registrant will have to apply for a new DEA registration.

Visit the [DEA website](#) for more information.

Are Your Dental Assistants Registered?

[District of Columbia Dental Regulations](#) require that all dental assistants practicing in the District be registered with the DC Board of Dentistry. The City is currently conducting audits of dental practices to ensure that all dental assistants working in the District are registered. Dental assistants not in compliance with this regulation risk fine, as do their supervising dentists. For more information, please visit the DC Board of Dentistry [website](#).



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New Scaling Procedure Code Effective January 1

As of January 1st, dentists may use procedure code D4346 (scaling in the generalized presence of moderate or severe gingival inflammation — full mouth, after oral evaluation). This code reflects the procedure for patients with gingival disease and no attachment loss. Dentists who have delivered the procedure have not been able to document and report it with an appropriate CDT code – until now.

This CDT 2017 addition has been the subject of two ADA News articles, a guidelines document posted on ADA.org, and a webinar that has been accessed by thousands of dentists and practice staff.

To learn more, watch the free webinar [D4346 – The New Scaling Procedure: How it Works for You](#). In addition, you can download the free [Guide to Reporting D4346](#).

ADA members with additional questions regarding this new code may call (312) 440-2500, or email dentalcode@ada.org.

EPA Will Require Dental Offices to Use Amalgam Separators

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a [final rule](#) December 15 requiring dental practices nationwide to install amalgam separators.

The rule closely follows ADA's own best management practices (BMP) and incorporates three of those BMPs: one requiring use of separators; two, prohibiting providers from flushing down a drain waste amalgam (such as from traps or filters); and, three, prohibiting the use of bleach or chlorine-containing cleaners that may lead to the dissolution of solid mercury when cleaning chair-side traps and vacuum lines.

DC Water & Sewer Authority has requested that all dentists with offices in D.C. participate in a survey on amalgam use. Dentists who participate may potentially avoid an inspection by completing the survey. If your practice has more than one dental facility in the District, please complete a separate survey for each facility, using [the online form](#).

If you have questions, please contact Elaine Wilson at the D.C. Water & Sewer Authority, 202-787-4177, or Elaine.Wilson@dcwater.com.

Visit DCDS at the January NBC4 Expo

Stop by and visit the DCDS Foundation booth 2733 providing oral cancer screenings again this year at the NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo. The event is taking place on Saturday, January 7, and Sunday, January 8, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Volunteers will be hosting an "Ask an Expert Booth" and assist with screenings. Volunteers are still needed on Sunday afternoon. If interested, please contact Amber Wright at (202) 367-1163. We hope to see you there!



FDA Powdered Glove Ban Effective January 18

The Food and Drug Administration issued a [final rule](#) Dec. 19, banning the use of most powdered medical gloves.

The rule, which goes into effect January 18, applies to patient examination gloves, powdered surgeon's gloves, and absorbable powder for lubricating a surgeon's glove.

ADANews

"While use of these gloves is decreasing, they pose an unreasonable and substantial risk of illness or injury to health care providers, patients and other individuals who are exposed to them, which cannot be corrected through new or updated labeling," the agency said in a March [news release](#).


In its summary of the rule, the FDA also noted that the ban "does not apply to powder used in the manufacturing process" of non-powdered gloves, "where that powder is not intended to be part of the final finished glove" and said "finished non-powdered gloves are expected to include no more than trace amounts of residual powder from these processes, and the agency encourages manufacturers to ensure finished non-powdered gloves have as little powder as possible."

The entire rule can be read [here](#). The ADA Science Institute monitors and posts [links](#) to alerts and recalls of oral care products.

For more information about hand hygiene, visit the [ADA Professional Product Review](#) (please have your ADA login ready).

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PRACTICE FOR SALE – EASTERN MARKET. 800 square feet of recently renovated space; boutique practice with 2 operatories and 1 more plumbed. Located in a fast-growing neighborhood of young professional families; fee-for-service; low overhead expenses; easy access to Eastern Market and Capitol South metro stops. Contact William P. Karpa, DDS at 301-233-1814 or wkarpa@me.com.

PRACTICE FOR SALE – NORTHWEST. 2 treatment rooms in very modern 800 sq ft office; affluent American University area of NW DC; \$450K gross; 100% fee-for-service; 100% collections; seller willing to transition. Contact William P. Karpa, DDS at 301-233-1814 or wkarpa@me.com.

PRACTICE FOR SALE – METRO CENTER. 2700 square feet new state of the art office; well-established prosthodontic-GP practice; 3 treatment rooms but can be expanded to 8; Dentrix software; Cone Beam CT; Digital Impression Scanner; 2000 active patients; \$1.45M gross; seller relocating but will transition. Contact William P. Karpa, DDS at 301-233-1814 or wkarpa@me.com.

Employment Opportunity

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POSITIONS OPEN — Part-time Dental Hygienist and part-time Dentist Associate both leading to full-time, located in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Hygienist must be proficient in non-surgical periodontal therapies, patient education. Associate must be proficient in all aspects of General Dentistry. Must be a licensed/registered dental hygienist or dentist in DC. Experience with Eagle Soft and fluent in English/Spanish is a plus. Positions are available immediately with 2-3 full days per week. More information about this position can be found [on our website](#). Contact Dr. Oswald Cameron at 202-462-1925 (work) or ocameronds@aol.com.

Advertise with DCDS

Classified ads in the DCDS Newsletter are easy to coordinate. Simply fill out an [advertisement contract](#) and e-mail the completed contract and your ad to info@dcdental.org. We will then send you an invoice and request payment information. Without the payment, your ad will not run.

Pricing is as follows:

Members: \$30

Non-Profit Organizations: \$50

Non-Members: \$100

Dental Students and New Graduates: Free! You must be a member of the ASDA or DCDS to qualify.

Deadlines:

The Newsletter is usually distributed on the first Wednesday of every month. Ads are due to the Society two weeks in advance in order for them to appear in the next newsletter.