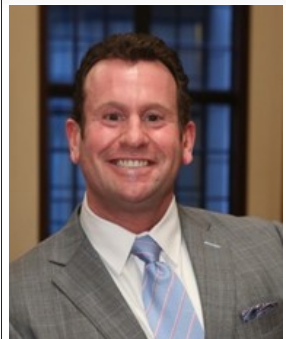




District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 2017, Vol. 63, No. 5



Dr. Thomas Sokoly

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

Dear Colleagues:

The 2017 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting is this Friday and Saturday (May 5-6) at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and we're looking forward to an exciting program and fun meeting. If you have not yet registered, you may still do so [online](#) or at the convention center starting on Thursday, May 4 at 11am. I urge you to attend and support the Society's meeting where you can earn CE, explore the largest exhibit hall in the Mid-Atlantic, and network with other dental professionals.

This year's National Signing Day took place on April 13 at Howard University. I want to thank DCDS members Drs. Chris Loukaitis, Stephen Tigani, Alan Singer, and ADA 4th District Trustee Dr. Jeffrey Cole, for their hard work in communicating the value of membership to these dental students. Membership engagement is the most important aspect to the future of our organization. Our efforts must remain focused on attracting active members and creating an open society to remain successful.

The 2017 Annual Awards Dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 13, at the Westin Georgetown. Members planning to attend the June dinner should RSVP [online](#) or via email at info@dcdental.org. I look forward to seeing you there.

Immediately prior to the June Awards Dinner, there will be an election to the DCDS Board of Directors for three open Board positions, as well as a vote to approve recommended changes to the bylaws. Please familiarize yourself with the candidates (page 5) and bylaws changes (page 4) and come prepared to vote.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the Society's Board should you have any questions or comments. *(continued on page 2)*

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Reach Us

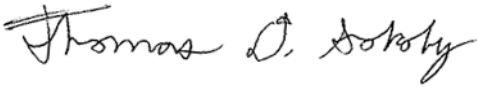
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(continued from page 1)

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

Sincerely,



Thomas Sokoly, DDS

President, DC Dental Society



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Mid-Atlantic DENTAL MEETING

May 5 – 6, 2017

Walter E. Washington
Convention Center
Washington, DC



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

ADA

www.midatlantiddental.org

On-Site Registration for the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting is Available

If you haven't yet registered for the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting, there's still time! Register [online](#) or at the convention center starting on Thursday, May 4th. Connect with other dental professionals, earn up to 120 hours of CE, and experience the newest dental hardware, tools, and services in the Exhibit Hall. One low registration fee includes most sessions, all licensing requirements, and a voucher to be used towards lunch in the exhibit hall! The meeting is now more affordable than ever. Don't miss out – convention center registration is open Thursday, May 4 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday, May 5 from 6:30 am to 7:00 pm, and Saturday, May 6 from 7:00am to 4:00 pm.



ADA National Signing Day

DCDS hosted its annual ADA/ASDA National Signing Day Program at Howard University College of Dentistry on April 13th. Signing Day is an exclusive event for graduating dental students that provides them with information on the value of membership in the American Dental Association and its local ADA constituent societies. Speakers included DCDS Membership Committee Chair and 2017 Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting Chair Dr. Chris Loukaitis, ADA 4th District Trustee Dr. Jeffrey Cole, and DCDS Past Presidents Drs. Stephen Tigani and Alan Singer.



Membership to Vote on Bylaws Changes on June 13

There will be an election held immediately prior to the June 13, 2017 Annual Awards Dinner for three open positions on the DCDS Board of Directors, as well as changes to the Society bylaws.

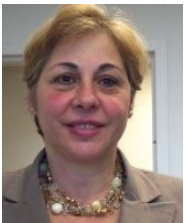
The modifications to the Society's bylaws would allow eligible members the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot for the election of officers and at-large board members. In addition, the committee has recommended several modifications to reflect current practice and correct numbering and spelling errors contained in the current bylaws. A PDF version of the bylaws with all the recommended modifications is available on the [DCDS website](#).

June Awards Dinner

The 2017 Annual Awards Dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 13, at the Westin Georgetown. Members planning to attend the June dinner should RSVP [online](#) or via email at info@dcdental.org.

DCDS Elections to be Held June 13

There will be an election held immediately prior to the June 13, 2017 Annual Awards Dinner for three open positions on the DCDS Board of Directors. The slate of candidates and their statements of interest are below.



Ionna Bettios

I am a Professor and Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics at Howard University College of Dentistry. I received my Bachelor's from the University of Maryland College Park with Magna Cum Laude Honors, and my Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland. I joined the military service during dental school, and retired after 28 years of decorated service, where I held several Healthcare Executive leadership positions, and acted as the Program Director of Senior level administrative and clinical Committees; I have authored 18 Department of Defense policies to improve healthcare for service members and their families. I am a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists, a member of ADA, a member of the International College of Prosthodontists, the Academy of Osseointegration, Who is Who in Women Dentists, and the American College of Health Care Executives. I am a decorated military veteran and accomplished clinician and educator with several personal awards from her military, healthcare, and education service.



Stephen Tigani

I have been an active member of the District of Columbia Dental Society for more than 25 years. I have served the Society and its members over the years in several capacities. I was fortunate enough to serve on several committees which allowed me to understand our Society and the needs of its members. I have previously served on our Board prior to becoming Vice President, then President Elect. I became President in 2009. I was Chair of the Nation's Capital Dental Meeting in 2007 and I am currently the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting. On a national level, I was an Alternate Delegate for four years prior to becoming your Delegate to the ADA this year. I graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1992. I then completed my residency in Orthodontics at Columbia University in 1995.

I am interested in the at-large position for our Board. I am currently serving as a presidential appointee. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving you. I believe our Society is in a state of flux that we have not seen in our 150-year history. Over the past year, our Board has faced many questions and challenges ranging from governance to membership benefits, just to name a few. After speaking with young and older members, I believe I understand the issues that face our Society. I believe I can represent you on our Board so you have a voice. I humbly ask for your vote so that I can continue to represent you and your concerns.

(continued from page 5)



Pierre Cartier

I have been a member of the District of Columbia Metropolitan dental community since 2005. After graduating from the University of Kentucky's College of Dentistry, I served in the US Air Force Dental Corps at Joint Base Bolling-Andrews, where I completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency in 2006. Upon returning to the District, I served as a civilian dental officer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and also held clinical positions in the private sector. In 2014, I earned a Master in Public Health degree in Epidemiology from The George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health, followed by a Health Policy certificate in 2015.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I will lend my expertise in population health and healthcare leadership to the Society. A key area where I can contribute to our organization is within strategic planning, particularly with respect to coalition and partnership building. Efforts that increase awareness of comprehensive oral healthcare and enhance our oral health workforce are key professional endeavors of mine; I will advise our organization regarding emerging opportunities to foster increased awareness of comprehensive oral healthcare and further reinforce the impact that oral healthcare providers have on health and wellness in the District. Further, I will provide perspectives from a (relatively) new dentists' standpoint, particularly with respect to membership development, engagement with the dental education community, and professional development programming.



Ladan Basiripour

It has been a tremendous privilege and honor to have served the DC Dental Society for the past two decades. We have a 150-year-old history to be proud of, and now your society needs you: we need you all to continue being exemplary ambassadors of our group, to recruit new members, and to donate your time and expertise to move us forward and create a more viable and sustainable dental society. My work with young dentists has given me a unique insight into their challenges in the new world of dentistry. The ability to change is critical for our well-being, and we need to communicate this change to our leadership.

I received my MA in Endocrinology from UC Berkeley in 1986 and my DMD from Harvard in 1993. For more than a decade I was a solo private practitioner followed by an associate professor position for 5 years at Howard dental school. I am a member of ADA, DCDS, MSDA, and several other societies and clubs. For the past 4 years, I have served on the board of directors of the DC Dental Society. I serve on the Mid-Atlantic Dental Convention committee. I have served on two advisory groups of the DC Department of Health as the DC Dental Society's representative. Thank you for your time and consideration.



David Spiegelman

I have served four years on the DCDS Board of Directors and twelve years on the Advisory Board for the Nation's Capital Dental Meeting/ Mid Atlantic Dental Meeting. In 2011 I was Committee Member of the year in recognition of my commitment to the success of the NCDM. The DCDS is facing difficult problems, such as declining membership and decreasing revenue from the Mid-Atlantic Dental Meeting. I am motivated to help the Board of Directors make the changes to address these issues and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Is Your Website AwDA Compliant? It Needs to Be!

The Americans with Disabilities Act (AwDA) requires that places of public accommodation, including physicians' and dentists' offices, be accessible to persons with disabilities. With the advent of the internet, and of websites that businesses utilize to provide additional access to the public, the U.S. Department of Justice has taken the position that websites open to the public must also be accessible in various ways to persons with sight or hearing impairment. This interpretation may affect the websites of our members.

Recently, several ADA member dentists in Texas received letters from attorneys alleging that their websites violate the AwDA because the websites are not accessible to individuals with disabilities. The letters typically request the payment of some amount of money in order to avoid a lawsuit, and may also insist on prompt compliance with the law. As it is possible that other member dentists may receive similar letters, we thought some guidance might be helpful.

To assist members with this issue, the ADA has prepared the following documents:

- 1.) ["Website Accessibility"](#) A summary of steps that members should consider in the short term to make their websites less susceptible to a claim.
- 2.) ["Website Accessibility Claims: Strategies for Dentists"](#) A "white paper" that describes in greater detail strategies for members (and their attorneys) in case they receive a demand letter of the type described above. The paper also includes the actions that members might consider in order to make their websites more fully accessible to persons with disabilities in the long term.



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PRACTICE SPACE FOR LEASE – Oxon Hill Dental Building - Fully Equipped for Immediate Lease. If you are a general or specialist dentist wanting to start your own dental practice alone or with other dentists, we can provide an equipped dental facility for you to lease giving you the opportunity to practice the profession you love without the high cost of setting up a dental practice. With three new operatories, three x-ray units, air compressor, suction vacuum unit, autoclave sterilizer this office First Month Lease is FREE! (While you set up!) It also has a Dental Lab which you can lease separately if you want. Location: 1004 White Oak Dr. Oxon Hill, MD 20745-1739 Contact: Sophia Kim 571-299-8600

PRACTICE SPACE FOR LEASE – NORTHWEST DC, Operatory and Doctors office for lease within two doctor suite. New office building at 1800 K St NW with new dental office build out July 2016. Contact Karen at 202-296-3135 or tpwdentistry@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.

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.



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