

NTDS NEWS

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...BY DR. ROBERT A. NEAL

It is the start of a new Fall. I can always tell because of the shotguns going off in the fields by my house. It just reminds me of one more reason our Country, and State for that matter, are so great. Regardless of your position on hunting or gun control, the right to let the people decide the direction of their country is what makes us great. In these tough times we cannot lose sight of the fact that the elected officials work for the people.

On a much smaller scale, I now sit humbly on top of the ladder that has taken six years to climb. I promise I will give you my very best effort as I try to fill the big shoes left behind from our past presidents. It was not so long ago when I first got involved in the Fourth District, that we ran our organization out of a shoe box. My, how far we have come! From my end, besides the daily chores of running the society, I plan on leaving a detailed cheat sheet for the presidents that follow me. I am working very closely with Lisa McLerran (our executive director) to put together a master list of the society's responsibilities to the TDA and ADA, and a timeline of when those things should happen. All too often

in the past, things would sneak up on us and we would be behind when it came time to act...most notably, electing state positions. We have very qualified and motivated people that would make our district proud to be at the TDA level. However, by the time we realize it is our turn to campaign those people, we are months behind and disorganized in their quest. My goal this year is to make sure that presidents following me, and the society in general, will not be caught months behind again.

For those of you that don't know, the terms for elected offices start after the TDA meeting in May. So the current board is already well into this year's term. To date, we have another balanced budget. The society will operate on a total of \$63,095.72, with the same amount of expense. A motion was passed that last year's surplus, and any future surplus, will be placed in a separate account. This money will grow with interest for future NTDS projects. There has been some discussion of a NTDS clinic or mobile van to serve the underprivileged, and increase our areas of access to care. While just a dream at this point, it is my opinion

that you "start small and dream big."

I would like to personally invite everyone to our next general membership meeting. Not only is the fellowship nice, but we will also have CE credits available. I would also like to remind everyone that the board meetings are open to anyone. If you would like to attend, all you have to do is let Lisa know you're coming and show up. I would like to thank Dr. Clyde Lee for graciously allowing us to use his board room for our meetings.

To date, we have one of the fastest growing districts in the state, being run by the same few people that have been around since I became active. I cannot stress enough how important your involvement is. If you would like to help, don't be shy. Give Lisa a call and we can put you to work. You cannot imagine how many services your district provides and the manpower it takes to make them work. In closing, any amount of volunteer time you can contribute to us is greatly appreciated, even if it is just one Peer Review case a year. We could use all of the help we can get!



Dr. Neal presents Dr. Shannon the Dentist of the Year Award



Congratulations Dr. McCarley Distinguished Dentist of the Year Award



Dr. Neal presents Dr. Cardenas the New Dentist of the Year Award

NTDS GALA AND AWARDS CEREMONY KICKS OFF THE NEW YEAR

Ready, set, go! The 2009-10 year for the North Texas Dental Society is off and running.

Saturday evening, September 12, started the year off with a bang for those attending the 1st annual Past Presidents Gala and Awards Banquet. Past NTDS presidents, current NTDS officers, and invited guests were treated to an evening of celebration in honor of their service for our organization.

Beginning with "happy hour", guests enjoyed the upbeat sounds of the Bois D'Arc Dixieland Jazz Band. A sumptuous repast of Italian delights followed. Dr. Tim Shannon, emcee for the evening, began the program with introductions. All past presidents were recognized and thanked, along with current members of the NTDS Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons. A commemorative lapel pin was given to each for their service. This year's event highlighted the Peer Review Committee and its members. Chairman Dr. Phil Sehnert thanked the committee members and spoke to the importance of this committee. Peer review is one of the most worthwhile benefits of membership in organized dentistry. Often over-

looked until needed, it provides a buffer of protection for our doctors when confronted with dissatisfied patients. Dr. Sehnert challenged more of our membership to serve on this committee so that the burden of responsibility can be better distributed.

Dr. Rob Neal, current NTDS President, then gave his outlook for the 2009-10 year and offered a historical perspective on the growth and progress of the NTDS. Dr. Neal has been working diligently for us and his term will undoubtedly have a positive and enduring impact on our organization. Please thank him for his leadership when you meet him.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards. Dr. Mark Craig was thanked for his service as Past President of the NTDS; Dr. Omel Cardenas was honored as our "New Dentist of the Year"; Dr. Tim Shannon was recognized as our "Dentist of the Year"; and, Dr. David McCarley was our "Distinguished Dentist of the Year" in recognition of

his long and tireless leadership on behalf of the NTDS. Each of these men has contributed substantially to the success of the NTDS. We thank them for their selfless work on our behalf.

Last but not least, our nonprofit Rite to Smile Foundation gave financial grants to four worthy organizations and programs. This year's beneficiaries include the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children; the TDA Smiles Foundation; the Collin College Dental Hygiene School; and, Give Kids a Smile. The RTS Foundation raises money through its annual Golf Classic in support of improving education and access in the field of dentistry, with focus on nonprofits who serve statewide and within our district. Your support and financial giving are critical to the success of the Rite to Smile Foundation.

The evening concluded, everyone went home full and happy. Now it's time to get down to business. Please join us at the first general meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 6, at the Stonebriar C.C. in Frisco, Texas. See you there!

The NTDS thanks the following Dentists for their participation as a member of the Peer Review Committee:

Dr. Phillip Sehnert-Chair

Dr. Sara Bender

Dr. Omel Cardenas

Dr. Joseph Choi

Dr. Rex Eatmon

Dr. Reza Hadavand

Dr. Jerry Hopson

Dr. Scott Lipscomb

Dr. Shane Mason

Dr. David McCarley

Dr. Robert Neal

Dr. Timothy Shannon

Dr. Jacquelyn Stanfield

Dr. Charles Stetler

Dr. David Wilhite

Mark Your Calendar for the Upcoming NTDS General Membership Meetings!

December 1, 2009

February 2, 2010

March 2, 2010

April 6, 2010