1999 Annual Session
"We Brought Down the House."
by T. Bassett

What a way to start the 1999 Annual Session - having 18,000 pounds of the host hotel fall to the ground. It happened Thursday afternoon (April 15th) during the Board of Trustees meeting and sounded like a truck had crashed into the building. Miraculously no one was hurt. We had several people associated with our meeting tell us later they had just driven away from that area of the hotel, moments prior to the crash. The NDA and the Doubletree are very grateful that the only damage was to the building and the street and not to hotel guests or staff.

Aside from that occurrence the 131st Annual Session pretty much went off without a hitch and those in attendance enjoyed themselves. Attendance was down a little from last year, probably due to Creighton's Spring Assembly falling on the same weekend.

The NDA's annual meeting is both a membership benefit and the association's largest source of non-dues revenue. The dates for next year's annual session are April 9-11 (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday) and will be held at Omaha's Holiday Inn Central on 72nd Street. We last held the state meeting there in 1997. Planning for the meeting in 2000 is already well underway. In fact, the NDA's new president, Dr. Ben Kutler, has already selected the speakers for his meeting.

Here's a few statistics from this year's meeting:

42 - The number of gallons of ice cream served at the ice cream social in the exhibit area.
48 - The number of pounds of Bakers chocolate given to attendees at the Celebration Dinner and to our exhibitors.
20 - The number of past presidents who attended the NDA's past president's luncheon.
865 - The combined number of attendees at the 3 scientific sessions.
$13,000 - Approximate cost of renting Civic Auditorium, paying for setting up exhibit booths, providing audio-visual aids for presentations, security in the exhibit area, etc.
$9,000 - Corporate sponsors provided this support to off-set the cost of certain educational and social activities.
$4,400 - Net amount to be divided between the NDA's Relief Fund and Dental Foundation from the silent auction and raffle.
235 - Number of people NDA staff had to tell "No, this is not the Shrine Circus. You need to go to the entrance around the corner."

Hawaiian Dinner Cruise

The 10th District will be having its very own dinner cruise in Honolulu on October 9th. When making plans for the ADA meeting be sure to include this activity. Nebraska is the host state. More details next month.

Dues Are Overdue

1999 membership dues became delinquent March 1st. Twenty-seven 1998 members have not paid their 1999 dues. If you intend to re-up, please call the NDA office NOW! Don't let your membership lapse, it is an investment in your profession. This is also your last Newsletter.
A Message from the President

THE ANNUAL SESSION PAST

Under the able leadership of Dr. Scott Morrison and the members of his Annual Session Council we enjoyed another successful annual meeting in April. For a $150 tuition members were able to earn 16 hours of continuing education credits by attending two and a half days of outstanding lectures. Our headquarters staff did a great job of making the session logistical and financial success. Great exhibits, fine social events, and good fellowship were enjoyed by all.

THE HONORS DUE

We are grateful to Dr. Don Theophilus, our president this past year, for his outstanding leadership on behalf of our association. His efforts to improve the NDA and Medicaid relationship resulted in changes, which will be long remembered as a highlight of his presidency and a landmark in the history of the Nebraska Medicaid relationships with the NDA. His committee met many, many times to accomplish this.

THE PLANS AHEAD

My immediate concerns are to complete our committee assignments for the coming year. We need your ideas on this. Please let me know what you would like to become involved with and suggestions as to who else you feel I should call on to help move our NDA forward in this constantly changing age of our society.

Organized dentistry is a vital element to our future as a profession. Without active participant involvement our profession would cease to grow. Our patients’ welfare and our professional status depend on what we can do together in our support of the ADA, the NDA and our local society. I will therefore be asking you to get the message across that "ask not what the ADA (and the NDA) can do for you but what can you do for the ADA (and the NDA)?" Our future as a profession depends on an attitude such as this and this is what I hope to emphasize in the year ahead.

THE PRESIDENCY

Thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me by asking me to lead this state organization of outstanding professionals for the coming year. It is truly a humbling experience.

Benton Kutler, D.D.S.
President Nebraska Dental Association

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The NDA House voted to pay for one year's dues in the American Student Dental Association for all freshmen at both dental schools. The next class of freshmen will have their dues paid for the year 2000 by the NDA and its members. Several other states are doing this with the hope that an early introduction to organized will pay dividends with increased numbers joining the ADA following graduation.

The Membership is charged with carrying out the wishes of the House. The first step will be to solicit individual members to send a check to the NDA ($40 for a student at CU and $47 for a student at UNMC).

This becomes a "scholarship" for a freshman. Shortly after arriving on campus each freshman will receive a note indicating that their dues in ASDA are being paid by Dr. . Each dentist donating to this cause will be told the name of his or her student. It is hoped they will then communicate with one another.

We believe this is a great opportunity to help both a dental student and the dental profession's future.

In the very near future NDA members will be receiving a letter from Dr. Gary Westerman, Chairman of the Council on Membership. A clip off section will be provided to encourage members to support this project.
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Congrats, Thanks, Etc.

Congratulations to all NDA members who were honored at this year's Annual Session. They include:

50 Year Honorees
Drs. Sol Kutler, Bernard Moran, Everett Parminter and George Weisel.

Life Members
Drs. John Belitz, William Carlisle, Richard Huston, Howard Muller, Maurice Norton, Frank Semin, Vladimir Storch, Gerald Ott, Uhl Donovan, Kenneth Pinkerton, Herman Blankenau, George Strassler, Mark Dougherty and Floyd Heimbuch.

Hall of Fame
Dr. Robert Hinrichs and Dr. Richard Tempero

Outstanding Young Professional
Dr. Mark Hinrichs

ADA's Access to Care Award
Dr. Tim McVaney

Council Chairman of the Year
Dr. Bob Roesch

President's Award
Dr. Stephen Leeper

Congratulations to Dr. George Schlothauer of Gering who is our newly elected Vice President.

A big thank you to Dr. Scott Morrison, Annual Session Chairman, who did an outstanding job this year! Thanks also to the Annual Session Council -- Drs. Cassandra Pietrok, Doug Camplin, Al Thomsen, Bob Roesch and Gary Westerman. When you see these people, thank them for their hard work and dedication. Dr. Scott Morrison has also graciously accepted this job again for next year -- thanks Scott!

Congratulations to Drs. Cathy and Todd Alley of Lincoln on the birth of their daughter Carly Jean. Carly was born on February 10th and tipped the scales at 7 lbs. 13 oz. Our best wishes to you all.

Thank you to Dr. Lou Hedlund of Lincoln for the time he served on the Medical Care Advisory Committee for the Medicaid Division through the State of Nebraska. Lou's term was for 2 years, but his time on the Committee has gone well beyond that. Thank you!

Congratulations to the following Certified Dental Technicians on their 25th Anniversary of service to the dental profession. They are: Doug Barrett, Lincoln; Don Buhlke, Kearney; Dan Kreitman, Lincoln; Tom Mertz, Omaha; Richard Miller, Omaha; James Saxon, S. Sioux City; and Delbert Steinwart, Kearney. Thanks for your dedication to the dental profession.

Thank you to Drs. Richard Tempero and Rich Fitzgerald for their years of service on the Board of Health. Dentistry has been very fortunate to have 2 dentists serving on the Board. Their terms will expire this fall. Thank you both for your efforts, time and dedication.

Congratulations to the newly elected NDA members of Epsilon Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Dental Society:

Faculty Membership: Drs. Marty Matz and Charles Wilcox.

Honorary Membership: Mr. Tom Bassett.

Alumni Membership: James Barton, Scott Blake, David Coates, Jess Kelly, Stacy Moon, C. Jared Randall, Ricarda Reed and Troy Thomsen.

Life Membership: Drs. William Carlisle, John Krager, John Marley, Donald Stormberg and Paul Tamisiea.

Congratulations to Joy Devoogd of Southeast Community College's dental assisting program. She was named the recipient of the Eleanor Otto Scholarship. The award is named after the long time instructor at SCC.

A big thank you to the members of the North District and the Southwest District for their generous contributions to the Nebraska Dental Foundation. Each district donated $1000.

A 4th Generation Dentist

In 1915 Dr. Fred Butz, Lincoln, received his D.D.S. from the University of Nebraska. In 1945 his son Robert, earned his D.D.S. at Nebraska (in 1955 he received his M.S. in Orthodontics). Robert practiced in Hastings. His sons Robert and James earned their dental degrees from Nebraska in 1976 and 1977 respectively, with Jim getting his orthodontics degree from Iowa in 1981. Bob practices in Holdrege and Jim in Grand Island. Their sister Cathy married John Pershing who is, of course, an orthodontist in Hastings (1973 and 1977 graduate of UNMC).

Well, that takes us to the present and to Matt Pershing, John and Cathy's son. This past week he graduated from UNMC's College of Dentistry.

This outstanding dental family has given to the state of Nebraska a total of 140 years of dental care. Our hats are off to them and our continued best wishes to Bob, Jim, John and their newest colleague - Dr. Matt Pershing.

We understand Matt will be entering the Army's dental residency program at Ft. Lewis, Washington this fall. Congratulations and Best Wishes!!
Photo Gallery - 1999'S Annual Session

The Board of Trustees just before the hotel lost its DO

The House of Delegates had an active session.

These are the newest NDA Life Members' from left to right: Dr Gerald Ott, Ken Pinkerton, Frank Semin, William Carlisle and Herman Blankenaus

Long time corporate sponsors Bob and Marilyn Diers - Platinum Level

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Nexadental - Platinum Level - Corporate Sponsor
Dr. Don Theophilus admires a golfing statue presented to him by his successor, Dr. Ben Kutler.

Our newest Hall of Fame inductees, l. to Rl, Drs. Bob Hinrichs and Dick Tempero.

Outgoing Board of Health members l. to Rt, Drs. Rich Fitzgerald and Dick Tempero.

50 year award recipient - Dr. and Mrs. Sol Kutler.

50 year award recipient - Dr. and Mrs. Bernie Moran.

Student Delegates at the House - l. to Rt, Brant Darby, UNMC and Patrick Janhousky, Creighton.

Jane Jacob of MedE America - Corporate Sponsor.

Dr. Bob Roesch - Council Chairman Award.

Dr. Steve Leeper - President's Award.

Drs. Bob and Mark Hinrichs, Hall of Fame inductee and Outstanding Young Professional Award.

Dr. Tim McVaney - ADA's Access to Care Award.

Dr. John Zapp, ADA's Executive Director addresses attendees at Session 1.
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Secretary  Dr. Gerald Ott
Speaker of the House  Dr. Gary Westerman

Dr. Roesch for AGD Speaker

Dr. Bob Roesch, Fremont, is a past president of the Omaha District and is currently the chairman of NDA’s Council on Legislation. He’s thrown his hat in the ring to be Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Academy of General Dentistry.

Bob has been a Trustee for the AGD for six years and a member of their Budget and Finance Committee for all six of those years. He has chaired this committee for the past three years. He has a strong knowledge of parliamentary procedure and is a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. He has been in the AGD House for the last eleven years.

If NDA members have friends who are AGD members throughout the U.S., it would be a good deed to let them know that we have a Nebraskan who is well deserving of this office. We want to wish Bob the best of luck and for him to remember all the little people (that’s us) when he takes the gavel for the first time.

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NDA Honors State Officials

At the Annual Recognition Luncheon, the NDA presented appreciation awards to three individuals who were very instrumental in improving the dental Medicaid program for patients and dentists. Marsha Rekart, Ric Compton, and Charlie Andrews, M.D. were all given award plaques. Marsha continues to serve Nebraska as Program Specialist in the Medicaid Division. Ric Compton, former Medicaid Division Director is now working in the private sector and Dr. Andrew’s has retired from his position as Nebraska’s Chief Medical Officer.

Nebraska’s Medicaid program is among the most progressive in the country. Part of the credit goes to these three individuals and a good portion goes to the many dentists who provide care for Medicaid clients.

In Memoria

Dr. Fritz Pierson, Jr., of Lincoln passed away on April 27, 1999. He was 78. Dr. Pierson was a 1944 graduate of UNMC College of Dentistry. He was a life member of both the NDA & ADA. Our condolences to his wife Charlotte & family.
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Update on Legislative Efforts

The Council on Legislation has built on the good relationships it has enjoyed with our state senators. Your NEDPAC dollars combined with our lobbyists efforts have enabled us to build a reputation as advocates for our patients. This was especially apparent this year as many of you contacted your senator on our two priority bills.

These two bills both failed to make it out of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee. Senator Beutler introduced LB442 which would make PPO’s pay non-preferred providers 95% of what they pay their preferred providers. Senator Crosby introduced LB454 which would have made insurance companies pay for general anesthesia during dental procedures done in a hospital setting. This bill was co-signed by Senators Bohlke and Byars. I want to thank those dentists who testified in person, in writing, and also those who called their Senators on these two bills. Many dentists also had their patients send in letters about their PPO experiences. We will continue to pursue both of these issues as it is very hard to advance these type of bills out of committee. If you are willing to help with these bills in the next legislative session please let me, or the NDA office know.

We have also actively supported LB 505 which would raise the state tax on tobacco products. We have worked with the two dental schools to possibly earmark a portion of these tax monies for oral health research and tobacco cessation activities. Many other bills are being monitored and we are being kept well informed by our lobbyists.

The following served on the Council this year: Drs. Vigna, Martin, Fitzgerald, Kelley, and Harre. Please thank them for their efforts on your behalf.

Keep Smiling,
Bob Roesch, D.D.S., Council Chairman
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