

## COUNCIL ON DENTAL BENEFITS

August 2020



**Dr. Sid Whitman**

- The NJDA Building Capital Campaign formed to fund the recent renovations and redecoration of our Building on RT. 1 in North Brunswick has made significant progress towards our goal of \$750,000. We are presently at \$501,600. MDS, along with many other components have pledged \$2000/ year for 5 years. A special thanks to all of our members who have made individual pledges.
- Many dentists are finding it difficult to reserve OR time since the pandemic. This is due to the fact that some hospitals and surgicenters would rather use their facilities for procedures that generate more money for the entity. This is a growing trend throughout the country.
- In the recent ADA HPI questionnaire that all ADA members received a survey is being conducted to determine the scope of the problem. Pediatric dentists in general are doing less office sedation and more hospital dentistry since the pandemic for those patients that have acute situational anxiety.
- The next meeting of the Council on Dental Benefits is scheduled for 9/16/20.
- Dental Life Line Network which has surpassed \$25,000,000 in donated dentistry since its inception recently rehired a 2<sup>nd</sup> coordinator to help process patients. As a result, we have shortened the waiting list for services.
- CMS recently named an interim Chief Dental Officer. This position has been vacant for 3 years. This is an important step since presently there are 60 Chief Medical Officers. We need representation in all levels of government.
- Dr. Darwin Hayes, the State Dental Director is proving to be an excellent advocate for dentistry. He is a member of MDS.
- The ADA Medicaid Providers Advisory Committee advises all dentists who treat Medicaid patients to review the Medicaid Providers Reference Manual which can be found on the ADA website. This is an important guide to navigating the Medicaid system.
- The Oral Health Coalition meets regularly with various state and educational entities, state board members, the Dean of RSDM and various residency directors as well as MCO's. Its mission is improving access to care.
- Amazon is now selling fluoride varnish and SDF to anyone who wants to purchase. These are prescription items. It appears that consumers can purchase without an RX. I wonder what the NJ State Board of Dentistry 's opinion will be.
- This year's incoming dental residents lost valuable clinic time in their dental school education. Since the pandemic dental school education has faced a myriad of challenges which are difficult to overcome. Recent graduates are intelligent but very green when it comes to experience. It is anticipated that dental resident applications will increase as a result.