

May/June 2023



Successful Social Pop-Up at Silver Spruce

The Resort District Dental Society recently hosted a highly successful social pop-up event on March 14 at the Silver Spruce Brewery, bringing together more than 40 attendees for an evening of great food, drinks, and community building. The event was a free member appreciation benefit!

The Silver Spruce Brewery provided a fantastic venue for the event, with plenty of space for people to mingle and enjoy themselves. The get-together was well attended, with members from across the district coming together to enjoy craft beers, delicious pork sliders, and Detroit-style pizza provided by local vendors. The social event was a great way to connect with other members and their partners. Keep an eye out for the next social event!

President's Message

Greetings Resort District Members:

I just received a report from the MDA, and the Resort District continues to have a very high rate of membership when compared to state and national levels, with literally just a few practicing dentists in the area that are not members. There are probably some really relevant reasons for this, but I'll just stick to the theme of lots of "bang for the buck" and no "blah, blah, blah" in the coming year since it seems to be successful so far.

The Resort District also has the lowest dues rate in the state for dues-paying components at just \$45 per year, so who in the heck wouldn't want to be a member? Thank you to all the members who keep us active and ahead of the pack!

Thank you to all of those who came out to our free Member Benefit Social at Silver Spruce Brewing. Great beer, pork sliders, and Detroit pizza were enjoyed by members while catching up with friends and colleagues. Thank you also to members Dr. Kerry Kaysserian and Dr. Wayne-O Olsen for mediating. We will try to host additional social events in the near future -- watch your email, so you don't miss out!

It has always been our goal to provide inexpensive, local continuing education opportunities for our dentists and their staff members. We currently have three CE goals for 2023: one meeting targeted at completing a required subject such as infection control or jurisprudence; one business feature; and one event featuring local talent. Any members willing to provide your expertise in a short presentation, please contact me and I'd love to include you in the event. My own focus will be on "Cowboy Dentistry" so get ready for some shock and awe! Seriously though, these events are always very well-attended, and I love to see how our members express their talent while serving our community.

Some good news and finally some common-sense changes to the executive order regarding implicit bias training: LARA has approved changes so that now pre-recorded (asynchronous) courses may be used to satisfy the implicit bias requirement, and implicit bias CE hours now count toward the overall hours required to maintain licensure. It's about time! Note: If you have already taken an implicit bias course for this licensure cycle, the credits will count towards the number needed for relicensure. See the MDA website for further details.

I'd also like to put out a call to any members, new or old, who want to get involved in RDDS

leadership. Sara and I have been doing this for a lot of years and I really feel it's time for some regime change. We've been lucky enough to have a lot of help by Drs. Maddy Stumpos, Tom Brown, Mark Krull, Trevor Kay, and Spencer Crouch, but it would be great to have more members who want to get involved at the leadership level, with the intent of taking over and building upon the successes that we've previously enjoyed. Contact us if you're interested.

I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the next CE or social event. Details to be announced, so watch your email!



Brian Rathke, DDS
President, Resort District Dental Society

Dental Assistant Program
1-YEAR CERTIFICATE OR 2-YEAR ASSOCIATES DEGREE OPTIONS
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT BECKIE WOOTERS 231-995-1240

Dental Field Facts:

- Median annual salary for dental assistants; \$41,180 - \$49,920
- Employment opportunities expected to grow by 7% within 10 years
- Ideal working schedule, no nights or weekends, benefits, paid vacations, and bonuses

Interested?
SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION!

- Obtain CPR and Radiography certification
- Eligible to sit for registered dental assistant exam
- Learn hands-on skills to get you prepared for the field
- Build personal connections in class and the community

Agreement Aims to Increase Ranks of Dental Assistants in Northern Michigan

Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City has formally partnered with Bay Mills Community College, a tribally controlled Upper Peninsula college in Brimley, Michigan. This goal is to increase the number of dental assistants serving northern Michigan.

In February, NMC and BMCC signed an articulation agreement that will allow BMCC students to transfer to NMC's dental assisting program after their first year. This dental assisting curriculum allows them to sit for the state exam to become a registered dental assistant (RDA).

Jessica A. Rickert, DDS, is the first female Native American dentist in the United States and remains the only one in Michigan. She now consults with Delta Dental Insurance and leads the Anishinaabe Dental Outreach, whose goal is to improve dental health in Native communities. She saw an opportunity to connect NMC and Bay Mills to better serve the Upper Peninsula, where the shortage of dental professionals is especially acute.

NMC recently invested \$52,000 in new equipment for the dental assisting program. It has six fully functioning patient rooms and some of the latest technology, including an intraoral scanner.

For more information:

Northwestern Michigan College
Beckie Wooters
231-995-1240
bwooters@nmc.ed

Read the full article [here](#)



MDA Women in Dentistry

A virtual community for support, education,
and work/life harmony



MDA Women in Dentistry: A Virtual Community for Support, Education, and Work/Life Harmony

The MDA's virtual community for women dentists, MDA Women in Dentistry, is an online destination where women dentists from across Michigan can gather for support, fellowship, and unique educational opportunities that bring harmony to their competing personal and professional priorities. Check it out!

The online community, which also has a just-added [Facebook presence](#), is led by MDA member dentists Dr. Katherine Solomich and Dr. Deb Peters.

CE credit is available for live presentations, which are scheduled monthly. Coming up on May 22 is "Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing: Focusing on the Right Things – Why Do Team Members Quit?" featuring Tricia Casasanta, RDH, CEO of Strategic Practice Solutions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Dental Medicaid Upgraded with Higher Reimbursement, More Services

Expanded dental Medicaid coverage and much-improved reimbursements for providers are now in effect, and Resort District Dental Society members participating with Medicaid are now seeing an increase to the reimbursement schedule to the average commercial rate, as well as an increase in covered procedures. Consequently, dentists who are not currently participating with Medicaid may wish to consider becoming Medicaid providers.

The MDA advocacy team lobbied intensively for the state to improve the dental Medicaid program, which covers 1 in 4 Michigan residents. For beneficiaries who are 21 years and older, the following services are now covered:

- X-rays.
- Teeth cleanings.
- Fillings.
- Extractions.
- Dentures.
- Deep teeth cleanings (new).
- Sealants (new).
- Root canals (new).
- Crowns (new).
- Care to keep gums healthy (new).

A large number of Medicaid resources are posted on the MDA's [Michigan Medicaid page](#). They include the new provider schedule and well as a listing of covered services and other information. Those with questions may also call the state at 800-292-2550 or email providersupport@michigan.gov.

Think MDA First for Practice Management

If you're looking for practice management resources or information to help you in your personal and professional life, think MDA first! There's plenty of information waiting for you at michigandental.org.

In the Practice Management area of the website you'll find a drop-down menu with these subsections:

- [Regulatory compliance](#).
- [Human resources](#).
- [Legal services](#).
- [Ethics](#).
- [The MDA Store](#).
- [ADA Resources](#).
- [MDA Practice Resources](#), plus much more.

You'll find many MDA programs to help you succeed personally and professionally. Additional member resources include the MDA Mentor Program, information on MDA Peer Review, the MDA Health and Well-Being Program, the MDA Member Assistance Program, student services, information on establishing your professional career, and more. The MDA website is optimized for access on your smartphone, too.

If you can't find what you're looking for, just email the MDA staff at membership@michigandental.org.

Resort District Dental Society

Resort District Dental Society
resortdistrict@gmail.com
resortdistrictdentalsociety.com

This newsletter is produced by the



Copyright © 2023 Michigan Dental Association, All rights reserved.

