

# Top 10 Reasons to Attend the AGD 2008 Orlando Meeting

By Dr. Marc Tindell, Chair, Local Arrangements Committee

In case you haven't read any AGD or FLAGD publications in the last year, the AGD 2008 Annual Meeting is at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel in Orlando this July. Your Florida AGD is holding its annual business meeting, the General Assembly, on July 18, from noon to 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with the AGD Meeting. Come for the free lunch and visit with your colleagues.

Here are the TOP TEN reasons for joining your colleagues in Orlando this summer:

**#10** - Dental team members are eligible to attend AGD2008Orlando Free if their dentist has purchased a full meeting registration. Bring your whole staff – make a



Dr. Marc Tindell

party out of it. Four days in Orlando? Who could ask for more!

**#9** – If this is your first AGD Annual Meeting, the AGD is hosting a reception just for you. On Wednesday, July 16, the AGD will host the First-time Attendee Reception. This reception is by invitation only and is a great opportunity to meet other AGD members from across the nation.

**#8** - Admission to all lectures is free to dental professionals who are registered attendees of AGD Orlando. There's that word again – FREE. You pay one price and you get to attend any lecture you want. What a great deal!

**#7** – Hear two wonderful keynote speakers at AGD General Sessions - **CAPTAIN JAMES LOVELL, JR.**, Career Astronaut and Commander of Apollo 13 and **LOU HOLTZ**, College Football Coach, Author, and Sports Analyst

**#6** – Parties! The AGD Premier Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 19th, in the Hemisphere Ballroom at the Walt Disney World Dolphin. This event has something to please everyone—from hot jazz to contemporary rock and every musical taste in between—this celebration is going to rock!

**#5** – While you attend the Premier Celebration, your children will have their own special event—a “Youth Celebration.” Children will have the opportunity to participate in age-appropriate activities, including arts and

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## President's Message



### Florida AGD Activities Surging

By Dr. K. David Stillwell  
FLAGD President

Your FLAGD Board activities have really kicked into high gear during the first quarter of 2008. With the Florida House and Senate in session, legislative and regulatory issues continue to surface on several fronts which requires almost daily monitoring. Additionally, a major effort by your Constitution & Bylaws Committee was made to finalize important changes to our governance documentation.

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee was able to craft language needed to authorize a new standing committee (Audit Committee) and to establish improved governance guidelines for our component academies. Harvey Gordon, Rod Shaw, and Rosie Small put in hours and hours of work to get draft documents ready. The FLAGD Policy Manual was appended to include a new oversight document for the components. The structure and responsibilities of our state components, voting rights and representation, membership definitions, and component directors are all addressed within the new policy verbiage.

The proposal to amend the Constitution and Bylaws was passed by the full Board during the April Board meeting in Tallahassee. All FLAGD members will receive electronic notice of the approved changes 30 days in advance of our July 18th General Assembly. During the Assembly, the membership will be asked to vote on these constitutional changes. I hope that you will take an opportunity to review these proposals carefully.

We will have a keynote speaker with us this year during the Assembly. Dr. Robert Perdomo, a current member of the Florida Board of Dentistry, will have lunch with us and give those in attendance a brief update on FLBOD activities. Please go to the web and register to attend as early as possible ([www.flagd.org](http://www.flagd.org)) as this will help us to arrange the proper number of lunch settings.

*“Dr. Robert Perdomo, a current member of the Florida Board of Dentistry, will have lunch with us and give those in attendance a brief update on FLBOD activities.”*

The remaining agenda item for the state meeting will include election of officers. The nominating committee has posted the slate of officers on our website, and it is published on page 8 of this issue of **Florida Focus**.

We had an excellent meeting with our contemporary leaders from the Florida Dental Association during our last FLAGD Board meeting on April 1st. Current FDA president Nolan Allen, Rusty Payton, and Dan Buker conferenced with us for about an hour as we discussed the various FDA legislative priorities targeted for the 2008 “Dentists Day on the Hill”. We spent considerable time reviewing the Governor’s Access to Oral Health initiative,

*President's Message, continued on page 12*

#### FLORIDA FOCUS

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## Editorial



### WHY STUDENT MEMBERS?

by Dr. Larry Scheitler  
Editor, *Florida Focus*

For several years now, many of us have visited the University of Florida College of Dentistry senior students and recruited members for the AGD. We would have a pizza luncheon, offer guest speakers, and even present special topics we knew would be of interest to our potential and future members. Attendance was usually good, but new members joining the AGD were not what we would have hoped they'd be.

Drs. Bob Gehrig, Boyd Robinson, Henry Gremillion, David Stillwell, and many other AGD Board members who believe in the Academy of General Dentistry talked with seniors (and even juniors) and tried to bring them into the fold. In the past few years, we've even visited the NOVA SE Dental School and did the same thing. Double the effort but also double the benefit for the Florida AGD, all for membership because as Dr. Vinny Mayher says "Membership is Everything".

I think we've missed the mark. Sure a few students joined because the price was right or they liked the pizza, but we've failed in convincing future dentists of the true value of being an AGD member and the need to have an advocate for them as general dentists. To be blunt, most young general dentists could care less about organized dentistry other than how it can help them pass the boards or start a practice.

And we're not the only organization in organized dentistry with this problem, because it seems to be an epidemic throughout our "organized" ranks. The Florida Dental Association (FDA) according to a recent past president is also having a devil of a time recruiting and retaining general dentist members. If it weren't for the insurance benefits with the FDA, many say they would quit and save the \$1,000.

Okay, that's probably so, but why?

What has changed over the past decade that young dentists shy away from organized dentistry and our academy? Why

is it that they are attracted more to LVI (Las Vegas Institute) for which they pay three times our dues for a weekend course, but chose to drop AGD membership?

I guarantee you it isn't for lack of trying on the part of our Florida Board or the membership committee or our president. They've all worked tirelessly to attract young members. In fact, our state is one of the best when it comes to recruiting for the AGD. But the numbers are low no matter where you look, and our future as the advocate for the general dentist may be in jeopardy.

I think the "why" is in the perceived value of our academy just as it is with our profession. Dentists are no longer revered as the most admired professionals, and they're now seen more as "tooth bleachers" and "makeover cosmetologists" of the mouth. Our profession is just a business, kind of like plastic surgery but without any insurance coverage. Our young dentists graduate with a debt of up to \$400,000 which, by the way the economy is headed, will be a pathway directly to bankruptcy.

Why did this happen to our profession? Why have we not helped the younger dentists and dental students from day one instead of from day 1,000? Dental schools are having trouble getting faculty, but truthfully there are over 6,000 general dentists in Florida (many who could teach?) who might consider volunteering time to mentor these young dental students, providing them with the value of our profession from the beginning instead of waiting for them to come calling as a new member.

The dollar drives most businesses, and it pays for our comfortable lifestyles. But the price may be greater than we think, and the value of our profession as more than just a business may be lost. As Dr. Gordon Christensen said in "I Have Had Enough" (reprinted in many journals, just google it) our profession is in an ethical dilemma. "In my opinion, the dental profession has taken a real "dive". Where has the professionalism of my "profession" gone?" Good point Gordon. And why wasn't that professionalism been nurtured to begin with from the first day of dental school and not the last?

So it's no wonder that by the time our seniors look to graduation, deep in debt and poised to take the boards the last thing on their minds is AGD or FDA membership in organized dentistry. How can we expect them to believe we want to be their advocate when it took us four years to really begin advocating for them?

Join the Florida Academy of General Dentistry  
for its annual Business Meeting

## THE 2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Friday, July 18, 2008

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Hotels

(Room number to be announced)

Lunch will be provided FREE to all FLAGD members who  
reserve in advance - \$40 for guests

### AGENDA for July 18, 2008 General Assembly

- A. Call to Order by the President - 12:00 noon
- B. Introduction of Board of Directors and Special Guests
- C. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
- D. Approve Minutes of 2007 General Assembly
- E. Officers & Council/Committee Reports
- H. Unfinished business
- I. New business
- J. Report of the Nominating Committee:

President-Elect: Dr. Roderick Shaw (Madison, FL)

Vice-President: Dr. Don Thomas (Winter Park, FL)

Secretary: Dr. Irma Tassi (Tampa, FL)

Editor: Dr. Marc Tindell (Tampa, FL)

#### Directors at Large:

Dr. B. Laurel Casey (Madeira Beach, FL)

Dr. Bipin Sheth (Margate, FL)

Dr. Tony Menendez (Port Charlotte, FL)

- K. Election of Officers
- L. Bylaw Amendments to consider and approve:  
(Bylaws can be reviewed at [www.flagd.org](http://www.flagd.org))
- M. Guest Speaker:  
Dr. Robert Perdomo, Member, Florida Board of Dentistry
- N. Adjournment (1:00 p.m.)

Fax this form to the FLAGD Office at 707-220-2861 or send email to [rosiesmall@aol.com](mailto:rosiesmall@aol.com). (Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AGD # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve a place for me at the FLAGD General Assembly Luncheon

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be bringing a guest to the General Assembly

Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_

## Report from the President-Elect



### Diagnostic Indicators for STROKE

*By Dr. Harvey Gordon  
FLAGD President-Elect*

Instead of my usual commentaries on volunteerism, advocacy and such, I decided to “enlighten” the membership on a subject that could conceivably save someone’s life. I came across this material while reading one of the numerous articles & blogs I receive via email on a regular basis. This particular subject matter appeared in Doherty’s Bottom Line blog dated 29 March, 2008. It was titled “Diagnostic Indicators for STROKE”.

“During a BBQ, a woman stumbled and took a little fall. She assured everyone that she was fine. Someone offered to call paramedics, but she said “no”. She said she fell because she just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, she went about enjoying herself the rest of the afternoon. Her husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital. At 6:00 pm she passed away. She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps she would be with us today. Some don’t die, but they end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.” A true story???

However, according to a neurologist, if you can get a stroke victim to the hospital within 3 hours you can totally reverse the effects of a STROKE . . . totally. He maintains the trick is getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for with the first 3 hours.

#### Recognizing A Stroke

The key is to remember the first three letters of the word stroke- STR. These stand for three steps to help recognize a victim of a stroke. This is done by asking three (3) simple questions:

- 1) S - Ask the individual to SMILE.
- 2) T - Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE coherently. That is, ask him/her to repeat a sentence (3) times. “It is sunny out today”.
- 3) R - Ask them to RAISE BOTH ARMS. If they have trouble with any one of these Tasks, call 911 and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.
- 4) They now have a new sign of a stroke. A fourth indicator is the tongue. Ask the person to “stick out your tongue!” If the tongue is “crooked” or if it goes to one side or the other, this is also a good indication of a stroke.

A renowned cardiologist suggested that if everyone who reads this article tells or sends it to 10 other people, at least one and possibly more lives will be saved.



The Academy of General Dentistry endorses Chase as its preferred Visa card, with low interest rates and an optional value Miles feature that can help you to earn travel miles on every purchase. Premiere Value Miles are good on major U.S. air carriers, with no blackout periods. Expanded destinations include Hawaii, Alaska and Europe.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 CLASS OF NEW AGD FELLOWS & MASTERS

### New Florida AGD Fellows:

**Barry A. Bluth, DMD**  
**John J. Brodner, DMD**  
**Heather L. Childers, DDS**  
**David J. Ferlita, DMD**  
**John V. Gammichia, DMD**  
**Craig P. Georgiades, DMD**  
**Mervyn N. Hurwitz, BDS**  
**Joseph C. Joyce, DMD, ABGD**  
**Laura Kaiser, DMD**  
**Justin J. Katsur, DMD**  
**Elizabeth Keith, DMD**  
**Ramzi M. Matar, DMD**  
**Marc A. Minch, DMD**  
**Juliana Navarro, DMD**  
**Julia W. Neuls, DDS**  
**Phuc-Hau Tina Nguyen, DMD**  
**Cuong Phan, DMD**  
**Dale A. Rolando, DMD**  
**George A. Sanchez, DMD**  
**Lino Suarez, Jr., DMD**  
**Linda G. Trotter, DMD**

**The Florida AGD is proud to  
announce the winners  
of the 2008 AGD  
Senior Dental Student Award:**

**Kirk James Snyder, DMD**  
University of Florida  
College of Dentistry

**Nova Chitan Patel, DMD**  
Nova Southeastern University  
College of Dental Medicine

### New Florida AGD Masters:

**Gerald E. Bennett, DDS, FAGD**  
**Terry C. Blanks, Jr., DDS, FAGD**  
**Joseph M. Gerlecz, DDS, FAGD**  
**Michael T. Kelly, DMD, FAGD**  
**Stephen P. Lester, DDS, FAGD**  
**Herminia D. Rodriguez, DMD, FAGD**  
**Nancy Rotroff, DDS, FAGD**  
**Isse I. Song, DMD, FAGD**  
**Millie K. Tannen, DDS, FAGD**

### New Puerto Rico Master:

**Luis E. Ortiz-Quiles, DMD, FAGD**



**The Florida Academy of General Dentistry  
congratulates**

**Paul G. Grumbach, DDS, MAGD, ABGD**

for earning the AGD's Lifelong Learning and  
Service Recognition (LLSR).

Dr. Grumbach will receive this award at the  
FLAGD General Assembly  
on Friday, July 18, 2008 in Orlando.

In January, 2008, the LLSR was presented to  
**K. David Stillwell, DDS, MAGD** during a  
joint meeting of the AGD Board of Trustees  
and the FLAGD Board of Directors.

Fewer than 700 dentists have earned this  
award, and the FLAGD is extremely proud  
that two of its members have attained this  
honor this year.



## WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED “BLOG?”

by Dr. John Gammichia  
FLAGD Member

For the last couple of years, the AGD has been looking to improve the use of technology.

As you may have seen, the AGD’s Web site is constantly being improved to meet the needs of its members. But, with the Web site being the rock upon which this tech house is being built, we are still building.

In the past, words like podcasts, Facebook, forums, blogs, RSS, and MP3 would make us regular folk very uncomfortable. Now, most likely, some of these terms are part of your everyday life (or will be shortly).

Recently, the AGD formed new councils to meet the needs of its constituents and members. I am honored to be a part of the new Technology and Web Council. This council, with the staff and IT department at AGD Headquarters, is proud of the tech house we are building.

One thing that council members spoke of for a long time was getting podcasts and maybe a blog going. So, in 2008, the AGD launched its first podcast. (Go to the Web site and you are only a click away). Now, a blog--that will be a little more difficult, they thought.

We needed someone who is very special. We need someone who speaks to the common dentist. We need someone who is very good looking--you know, easy on the eyes, funny, awesome, someone who is charming and can write every entry like it’s a Pulitzer Prize piece. (I made this whole last part up.)

When council members and staff saw the criteria for writing the blog they knew there was only one guy for the job. The problem was he wouldn’t do it. So this is where I come in.

I volunteered. (I felt like I fit most of made-up the criteria). The IT guys set it up and next thing you know we are BLOGGING.

The birth of the AGD blog was January of this year.

I have been having a blast. I write about everyday stuff. Stuff that most of us feel but don’t get a chance to say (or scream). I talk about my family and how crazy it is being a dad of three little ones. I write about coaching and what it is like dealing with a 7 year old who said, “W-H-A-T-E-V-E-R coach” to me and how the Mom says, “Oh, Josh, he is just like that.”

I write about the ins and outs of running my practice. I write about my patients and how people who bring me so much joy can cause me so much pain. And, of course I write about how it is working with a partner and 11 woman

I must say, I came out swinging so if you have missed it, you must go back and read some of the past entries. But who would have thought a small town dentist like me had so much going on in his life? Mostly, I try to be real. I try to make practicing dentistry, by yourself, feel less lonely. I want my readers to laugh with me and cry with me. I want them to know that they are never the only one going through something.

That is why I volunteered.

So next thing you know I am huge in Europe--no not really. Now, what do you know, the AGD is blogging.

Everyone is pretty excited about it (especially the Europeans).

I think, at first, we thought it would be a good way to reach out to our members but I don’t think we ever thought about how much it would bring them together.

Go to the Web site: [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org).

And check out our blog. You will feel so savvy, trust me.

Because we are so hip that way.

Faithfully,  
John Gammichia

## SCENES FROM RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE FLORIDA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY



*FLAGD President, Dr. David Stillwell, presents the AGD Senior Dental Student Award to UFCD student, Kirk James Snyder, DMD*



*Dr. Larry Scheitler, Region 20 Trustee, (top row, second from left) meets with the AGD Board of Trustees and the AGD Executive Council in April, 2008*



*Rusty Payton (l) and Dan Buker (c) and from the Florida Dental Association, and FDA President, Dr. Nolan Allen attend FLAGD Board Meeting on April 1st.*



*The AGD Booth at ASDA Day at the University of Florida*



*The Florida Legislature in action*

## MORE SCENES FROM RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE FLORIDA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY



*From left, Dr. B. Laurel Casey, Dr. Pat Shepherd, FLAGD Executive Director Rosie Small and Dr. Rod Shaw are among the FLAGD representatives at Dentists Day on the Hill*



*Dr. David Stillwell, center, meets with dental students from the University of Florida College of Dentistry during ASDA Day*



*FDA President, Dr. Nolan Allen, addresses the FLAGD Board*



*Rusty Payton, FDA Lobbyist, and Dr. Nolan Allen at the FLAGD Board Meeting*



*Dr. Harvey Gordon, FLAGD President-Elect, learns how to drive a hybrid in Tallahassee*



*FLAGD Board member, Dr. Bipin Sheth, arrives in Tallahassee for Dentist Day on the Hill*

## Legislative Committee Report



### Flurry of Legislation Tracked by LGA Council

*By Dr. David Stillwell  
Legislative Committee  
Chairman*

In early February, Governor Crist released budget recommendations which outlined several areas designed to improve access to dental care. The Governor's 2008-2009 \$70 billion budget included a provision to attract dentists from other states who want to practice in Florida's public health settings under a unique licensing agreement. Concurrent with the budget proposal, the state's revenue estimating conference projected a \$3- to 5 billion deficit for 2008-2009 with a \$518 million shortfall still needing to be trimmed from the current year budget. As the state legislature was called into session on March 3rd, it immediately turned to the task of addressing the major financial obstacles related to the budget.

The Governor's Access to Oral Health provision also proposed to expand the dental hygiene profession's ability to work in public health settings without the presence of a dentist on-site. Other areas included in the original language were: 1) Medicaid reimbursements for physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to provide screenings and fluoride varnish services, 2) \$21.8 million to increase Medicaid dental reimbursement fees, 3) \$600,000 for a community dental service program to be provided through existing local institutional facilities, 4) a new three-year pilot (Cover Florida Health Care Access program) to provide preventive and primary health care services to the uninsured through hospitals and county health departments in 14 counties with the greatest needs, and 5) \$60.6 million to expand coverage to an additional 46, 000 children in the Florida KidCare program.

In response to the Governor's AOH initiative, the FDA issued a legislative alert asking members to contact legislators and to request that they decline sponsoring the proposed language. The FDA had made early requests to review proposals prior to release to the public but these requests were not granted.

The Governor's dental access bill, prepared for filing by Sen. Durell Peaden, was merged with the dental laboratory proposal previously attempted in the 2006 and 2007 sessions by sponsor Rep. Stan Jordan, thus becoming HB 1367 (Jordan) and SB 2760 (Peaden). The FDA remains neutral with the dental lab bill provisions in the merged legislation. The FDA lobbied and was successful in amending the Senate version of the Governor's initiative and language acceptable to the FDA is now contained in SB2760. The un-amended House version has not yet been considered by any committee of reference.

In other state legislation, Sen. Ted Deutch filed SB1410, with companion bill HB 329 by Rep. Susan Bucher, to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental providers to fifty (50) percent of usual and customary rates. It has been reported that dental reimbursement in Florida ranks 38th among 45 states studied. Rates have not been increased in more than 10 years while costs for providing dental services have doubled in some areas during the same time interval. A Medicaid impact conference held in March indicated that the monies (\$21.8 million) targeted to fund the proposed increase have been recommended by the Governor to come 100 percent from trust funds which may not be a stable or secure funding methodology.

The budgetary axe fell hard on these bills, and alternate budget proposals by the House recommended a 3.75 percent increase for children's dental services (\$2.1 million). The House initially indicated a need to eliminate all adult Medicaid dental services for two years but later restored the adult coverages. The Senate budget includes no Medicaid fee increase and would phase out adult services effective November 1, 2008. The House is recommending an expansion of Medicaid reform (opposed by the FDA and FLAGD) in nine additional counties by September 1, 2010; the Senate has been silent on further expansion.

Sen. Dennis Jones has filed SB2646 which will remove AHCA from having to make determinations whether disciplinary actions are required against a practitioner. Disciplinary actions and adverse incident reports would instead be tracked by the Division of Medical Quality Assurance within the Department of Health.

On the national front, President Bush's FY2009 budget request allocated no funding for the Title VII Health

*Legislation, Continued on page 11*

*Legislation, Continued from page 10*

Professions Programs. Last year's budget provided \$10 million in general dentistry and pediatric dentistry residency training grants, and FY2007 produced \$11.2 million for these grants. A compromise agreement was expected which could preserve funding at the 2007 level.

The annual 2008 FDA Dentist's Day on the Hill was held April 1st and 2nd in Tallahassee. The FLAGD contingent numbered 10 individuals taking part. It was a great showing of support for the FDA's annual project. FLAGD members in attendance remarked that our positive presence was noted by several FDA members and staff during the two day event. In addition, we made office calls to ten different legislators on the second day and performed valuable advocacy work on issues critical to the practice of dentistry. Please consider joining us on the Hill next year, Tuesday March 31st, 2009.

*Top Ten Reasons, Continued from page 1*

crafts, video games, foosball, board games, movies, a DJ, karaoke, magicians, and face-painting! Food and drinks will be provided.

**#4** - What's a trip to Walt Disney World® without meeting the characters?! At the Character Breakfast on Friday, July 18th, you can treat your family to a special morning with some special friends. Sure to bring a smile to every child's face, breakfast with the characters is a perfect way for young and old to get up-close-and-personal with their favorite Disney characters, without the theme park crowds!

**#3** – Discounted Tickets! To Walt Disney World attractions, Universal Studios, SeaWorld Adventure parks (including the fabulous Discovery Cove), Arabian Nights, Medieval Times, and more! Go to the AGD web site, [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org), for more information.

**#2** – The FLAGD will have an ongoing hospitality suite at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotels. We won't know the room number and exact hours until just a few days before the Meeting, but check for signs in the hotel lobbies for more information. Stop by your FLAGD suite, kick off your shoes, and have a drink and a snack on us.

And the **#1** reason for coming to the AGD Annual Meeting this year is . . .

The FREE LUNCH at the FLAGD General Assembly for all FLAGD members who attend the General Assembly on Friday, July 18th at 12:00 noon, and who make reservations in advance, by calling the FLAGD office at 866-620-0773 or emailing [rsmall@flagd.org](mailto:rsmall@flagd.org). Elsewhere in this issue of Florida Focus there is more information on the FLAGD General Assembly, including bylaw amendments, the slate of officers, and an Agenda for the meeting. The guest speaker is **Dr. Robert Perdomo**, member of the Florida Board of Dentistry.

Don't miss this opportunity to join your fellow FLAGD members and help set the future course of your professional Academy.

There are many more reasons than these ten for attending the AGD Annual Meeting this summer. You can see all the opportunities available at this meeting on the AGD web site, [www.AGD.org](http://www.AGD.org).

See you in July in Orlando!



Don't miss out on the AGD Annual Meeting July 16-20, 2008

AGD 2008 Orlando Annual Meeting & Exhibits

Academy of General Dentistry

[www.agd2008orlando.org](http://www.agd2008orlando.org)



*President's Message, Continued from page 2*

a proposal to establish an expansion of public health dentistry in underserved areas containing a unique method for licensing dentists. The FDA has come out in strong opposition to this and has vigorously lobbied to have the language amended.

We also had the opportunity to present our Board's position statement on the issue of dental re-licensure CE requirements to the FDA (the position statement appears later in this issue). We agreed to seek help from the FDA to work on increasing the CE requirements. We were gratified to see that Dr. Allen immediately placed the FLAGD position statement into his CDEL Committee. On April 11th, Board Vice-President Rod Shaw made a formal presentation to CDEL and various materials were taken under advisement by the FDA. I expect to be able to report more to you on the CE re-licensure issue as the year progresses. Currently, 31 states have more stringent professional education standards than does Florida.

There has been no specific new information crossing my desk regarding the Medicaid lawsuit. Governor Crist is promoting a \$21.8 million budget increase to fund

improved dental reimbursement rates, and AHCA has displayed certain overtures that may indicate a willingness to work on different approaches that don't involve Medicaid capitation. This access to care topic continues to be tracked by our Board's Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee. Several bills are currently under consideration in both chambers of the Legislature that would significantly alter the administration of Medicaid within the state. You can read more about this in the LGA Committee report in the pages that follow.

As you can see, your FLAGD Board has really been hopping! We always seem to have great fun while doing important work. I officially "pass the torch" of leadership following the elections in July, with the new Board assuming responsibilities on November 1st. I hope that each of you will plan to attend the AGD Annual Session and our State meeting this summer, and speaking for my entire Board, we encourage each of you to consider taking an active volunteer-leadership role in AGD activities.

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## **What's New at the Central Florida AGD**

*by E. Donald Thomas DMD FAGD, President, Central Florida AGD*

The Central Florida Component of the FLAGD is working very hard to become the new kid in Central Florida for meetings, as well as an advocate for general Dentists in our area.

We presently have over 200 dues paying members. During our first year we have had two Continuing education meetings, one of which was co-sponsored by the FLAGD, and the other a component sponsored affair at a local country club. Many thanks to FLAGD Past President Mel Kessler, President David Stillwell and of course our executive director, Rosie Small. They provided much needed support in order to get our component up and running.

Our last CE meeting was attended by President David Stillwell, who drove midweek to Orlando to attend our evening meeting. We had a nice dinner and enjoyed having him attend as our guest. We are looking forward to future meetings and welcome all AGD members to attend. If you have an e-mail address to share and wish to stay in touch with our component please forward it to [dt2thfxr@embarqmail.com](mailto:dt2thfxr@embarqmail.com), this will place you on our e-mail list for future functions.



Thanks to Dr. Michael Kelly, we now have a website in affiliation with AGD listed under Region 20 constituents, look for Central Florida AGD for information. For those of you who attended our last CE meeting, please check your transcripts through AGD's website and you will see your credits were automatically entered for you. This is a great service.

Lastly, we are planning a CFLAGD reception at the AGD Annual Meeting. For those of you attending, please e-mail us your intention so that we have a rough number of attendees. We look forward to seeing you in July. The time and place will be announced.

It has been a pleasure serving you as President this year and I want to encourage you to get involved on our component level. We need new officers and committee chairs for next year and could really use your talents and ideas. Our component will only be successful if our members are willing to be involved. I look forward to meeting each of our members and to welcome you to FLAGD's newest component.



## **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF 2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*by Rosie Small  
FLAGD Executive Director*

This issue of the Florida Focus is your official notice of the FLAGD General Assembly, the official annual business meeting of the Florida AGD. I know you have already been notified of this meeting, which is being held in conjunction with the AGD Annual Meeting in Orlando this July, but this is the OFFICIAL notice!!! In case you haven't heard, the General Assembly will take place on Friday, July 18, 2008 at the Swan and Dolphin Hotels in Orlando (room yet to be announced), from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., so as not to interfere with any courses you may be taking. And the best part is that the FLAGD is providing a FREE LUNCH to every FLAGD member who attends and who reserves in advance. Not just a sandwich and a cookie, but a real, FREE hot lunch! And you thought there was no such thing as a free lunch!!! You can send your reservation by email to [rosiesmall@aol.com](mailto:rosiesmall@aol.com) or by phone to 866-620-0773. Just leave a message with your name and AGD number.

If you look at page 4 of this issue of Florida Focus, you will see the agenda for the General Assembly. This information is also available on the FLAGD web site ([www.flagd.org](http://www.flagd.org)). New officers must be elected at this meeting. Here is the slate of officers presented by the FLAGD nominating committee:

President-Elect: Dr. Rod Shaw  
Vice-President: Dr. Don Thomas  
Secretary: Dr. Irma Tassi  
Editor: Dr. Marc Tindell  
Directors at Large:  
    Dr. Laurel Casey  
    Dr. Bipin Sheth  
    Dr. Tony Menendez

The membership of the FLAGD will also be asked to vote on the proposed bylaw amendments at the General Assembly. The proposed bylaws are available to review on

the FLAGD web site, [www.flagd.org](http://www.flagd.org), then click on 2008 General Assembly, and there is a link at the bottom of the page that will take you to the proposed bylaws. To help identify the changes in the bylaws, they are highlighted on the web site. But I wanted to take a minute and explain what these changes are in the Florida Focus.

The majority of the changes, in both the Constitution and Bylaws, reflect the Board's efforts to standardize the Component Academies while allowing as much individuality as possible. There is a new section of the Constitution that delineates the rules for a Component to continue in operation after its initial organization. In addition, there is a new bylaw, Chapter VII, Florida Component Academies, that defines the management of the Components, describes how they operate, what are their responsibilities to the Florida AGD, and how membership is defined. By following the rules and regulations of this new bylaw, the FLAGD can fairly administer the Component Academies by applying the same standards across the Board to all.

For those of you who are not a member of a Component Academy, the following information may be helpful. A Component Academy is a local chapter of the Florida AGD and the national AGD. There are four of these in Florida that hold regular meetings, collect dues, offer Continuing Education and send representatives to the FLAGD Board of Directors. These are 1) the Southeast Florida AGD, 2) the Gold Coast AGD, 3) the Central Florida AGD, and 4) the Tampa Bay AGD. In addition, the Northeast Florida AGD is currently trying to reorganize and become reestablished in Jacksonville. At various times, there have also been Component Academies in the Panhandle (the Northwest Florida AGD) and in the southwestern part of the state (the Suncoast AGD), but these Components are not currently in operation. If you live in one of the areas covered by a Component Academy, and are not already a member, you are strongly encouraged to join, as this is the easiest, closest and most personal way to get services and benefits from your AGD.

Now, getting back to the bylaws . . .

Chapter IV, Board of Directors, Section 1, Composition describes the various segments that make up the FLAGD Board of Directors, and defines how voting Board members are allocated to the Component Academies. Section 3, Quorum, explains which Board members are included in the count for a Quorum.



*General Assembly, continued from page 13*

Finally, another important change in the Bylaws can be found in Chapter 6, Councils and Committees. Earlier this year, the FLAGD Board approved the creation of a new Standing Committee, an Audit Committee, which is standard in the industry for non-profits. The description of this Audit Committee can be found in Section 3, A of the above Chapter. The actual operation of the Audit Committee is not included in the Bylaw, but has been incorporated into the FLAGD Policy Manual, so it can be easily changed as needed by the Board. This amendment only serves to establish the Audit Committee as a Standing Committee of the FLAGD.

These are the major changes to the bylaws that your Board of Directors have approved and are asking the membership to vote on. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee spent countless hours reviewing and rewriting these amendments, before presenting those above to the Board. Special accolades need to go to Dr. Harvey Gordon, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as well as President-Elect of the FLAGD, for all his hard work on this project.

While you are browsing through the FLAGD web site ([www.flagd.org](http://www.flagd.org)), we encourage you to look around and see what is important to general dentists in Florida this year. Please note that all new members are listed on the home page of the web site each month. If there are any new members from your area, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and welcome them into membership. Who knows, it might just turn out to be your best friend!

Since the FLAGD considers legislative activity its top priority (after membership, of course), any current legislative alerts will be highlighted on the front page of the web site, with a link to the background information you will need to stay informed on the subject. FLAGD President, Dr. David Stillwell, monitors current legislation, while Vice-President, Dr. Rod Shaw and Secretary, Dr. Irma Tassi, cover the Florida Board of Dentistry on your behalf.

Speaking of current changes in dentistry, did you know that the FLAGD Board has passed a resolution to present to the Florida Board of Dentistry, asking that the minimum number of Continuing Education hours for relicensure of dentists be increased? You will be hearing more about this from Dr. Stillwell and Dr. Shaw in the future. But perhaps in upcoming years, the CE hours you have been for the AGD will be necessary and useful to maintain your Florida license.

Well, this is a good place to leave you, with a tantalizing bit of information about the future of your profession and your license. To learn more about this, and the other interesting changes your Board of Directors is considering, come to the General Assembly on July 18th, and talk to the officers in person. We welcome you, and we appreciate your input.

Hope to see you in July.

Rosie

### **IN MEMORIAM**

The Florida Academy of General Dentistry has lost two long-time members from Miami in recent months.

**Anthony R. Joffre, DDS, FAGD**

**Aquiles E. Mas, DDS, MAGD**

We join the South Florida community in mourning these outstanding dentists and true gentlemen.



# 2008 DIRECTORY

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#### Personnel & Management Committee

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#### Constitution & Bylaws Committee

*Dr. Harvey Gordon, Chair*

#### Nominating Committee

*Dr. Harvey Gordon, Chair*



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