

G M D A

Connecting You To Success

President's Message Dr. Nicole Sawatzke



I want to thank all of you for attending this year's annual meeting. Glad we are all here to celebrate another year together. After the Bucks' disappointing exit from the playoffs, I am proclaiming that tonight the Deer District will be known as the "Dental District" and forget "Fear the Deer", how about "Fear the Dentists!?"

First off, I would like to thank Katie for her hard work and leadership, it has been a great year and thanks for all you accomplished.

The GMDA has been an important resource throughout my dental career and I am very grateful for this organization and for the opportunity to serve as president in the upcoming year.

Upon graduation from dental school at Marquette, I joined the GMDA. As a brand new dentist and a Colorado native, the GMDA opened doors for me to the Milwaukee dental community and provided the opportunity to build relationships with all of you. The GMDA has been invaluable to my career as a Dentist and I have had a lot of fun getting to know many of you over the years through networking events, CE courses, and WDA events. I have found that having a strong support network in this profession is so important. It has helped me grow as a dentist, as a professional, and as an advocate for our profession.

As we look forward to the upcoming year, we will continue to promote engagement of our members through CE events, Social Events, and participation with the WDA. We hope to continue building on our evening educational events and attracting more sponsors. We will also work to increase attendance at the annual Holiday Party and Spring Social, which are great opportunities to engage our new members and welcome them to the GMDA. On the topic of advocacy, I hope we can continue to support the WDA and MATC in addressing the current dental hygiene shortage we are all seeing in our practices.

A special thank you to all of our board members for your hard work and contribution to the GMDA. I am excited for the year ahead and working with each of you!

Thanks to all of you who are here in attendance today. I hope you have enjoyed your evening in the “Dental District” and I look forward to seeing all of you and your colleagues at our future events.

Trustee Report

By Drs. Cheska Avery-Stafford and Angela Lueck

We are continuously receiving updates regarding the recent \$20 million dollars in state funding that technical colleges will have access to for training and expansion. This funding became available following a bipartisan bill voted on in January of this year. The goal is to expand the dental workforce in the state of Wisconsin. Thus far 14 programs have made announcements for plans to either expand their current programs or add programs for Expanded Function Dental Assistants or Dental Therapists.

- ☐ Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville
- ☐ Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire
- ☐ Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton
- ☐ Gateway Technical College, Kenosha
- ☐ Lakeshore Technical College, Sheboygan
- ☐ Madison Area Technical College, Madison
- ☐ Mid-State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids
- ☐ Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee
- ☐ Northcentral Technical College, Wausau
- ☐ Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay
- ☐ Northwood Technical College, Ashland
- ☐ Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Fennimore
- ☐ Waukesha County Technical College, Waukesha
- ☐ Western Technical College, La Crosse

Recently, Maine became the seventh state to join the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. This officially activates the DDH Compact, allowing the first states to appoint their commissioners and beginning the process of allowing for greater licensure portability around the country. To recap, the first seven states are Washington, Iowa, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Kansas, Virginia, and

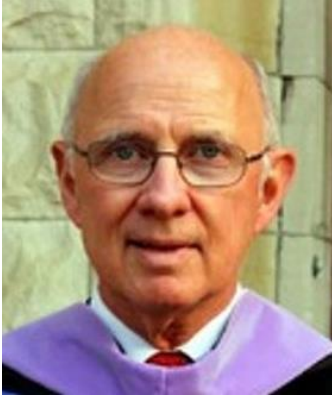
Maine. There is active legislation pending in several states this year, including Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Please take time to watch the series of WIDPAC 101 videos that have been recently released with the intention of encouraging contributions. Funding for WIDPAC allows us to sustain important relationships with legislators that support oral health in Wisconsin.

Registration is now open for the next 2024 WDA Town Hall on Tuesday, June 25. The Town Hall will be held on Zoom at 6 p.m. Featured speakers will include WDA President Dr. Chris Hansen (Manitowoc), Executive Director Mark Paget and Director of Membership and Communications Brenna Sadler.

The Pyramid of Pride Awards dinner has been renamed the WDA Presidents Gala and will be held on Friday, November 8, 2024. This event will have a new format that will include entertainment and will serve to celebrate both the outgoing WDA President and congratulate Wisconsin dentists and friends of dentistry through the annual awards program.

This month Marquette University School of Dentistry will graduate the Class of 2024. This is the first class in the nation that will be eligible for “diploma privilege”. That means there is no need to pass a written and practical national exam if they practice in Wisconsin. DSPS Secretary Hereth stated, “This decision reflects the Board’s and DSPS’s understanding that the work Marquette School of Dentistry students do through the school’s curriculum and required clinical work is more rigorous and thorough than a one-day practical exam.” Within three days of Marquette certifying graduation, DSPS will ensure those dentists have licenses in hand. About 25 have taken advantage of this new licensure pathway. Congratulations to all the graduates!!!!



Dr. Jeffrey Becherer

It is with sad but grateful hearts that we share the passing of Jeffrey Claude Becherer, DDS on March 14, 2024. Jeff was surrounded by his family and had a peaceful transition to heaven.

Jeff was the beloved husband of Susie (nee Stilp) Becherer and together they had six children. He was a loving and present father and father-in-law. He was the cherished “Bop” to 22 grandchildren and was happiest when surrounded by them. Jeff loved to talk about his family and ever-growing cadre of grandkids. He was very proud of and thankful for his legacy.

Jeff was born in Milwaukee and lived nearly his entire life in Wauwatosa, which he loved dearly. He attended St. Pius grade school, Marquette University High School, where he played keyboard in a band or two and formed the bottom right base of the cheerleading pyramid, then followed in his father Carl’s footsteps when he attended Marquette University and Marquette University School of Dentistry, graduating in the class of 1972 with average grades and good stories.

Jeff took over Carl’s dental practice, Becherer Dental on 71st and North Avenue, shortly after and thus began a decades-long career that was a true passion and calling. Jeff loved dentistry. He was an excellent practitioner, with a gentle and calm bedside manner, and he formed lasting relationships with so many of his patients. He could hardly leave his house without running into yet another patient he had helped over the years. He loved that and loved serving his community. His artistry and superior fine motor skills were put to good use in several of his children’s grade school dioramas and art projects, for which he always received an A. Thanks, Dad!

Jeff was a ton of fun and knew how to enjoy life! He was a diehard Brewers fan, and spent many afternoons and evenings at County Stadium, always pretty sure this was the year his Brew Crew would

win the World Series. He lived for Marquette basketball, and he and Susie were there when they won it all in 1977. He visited Disney World in 1971 in its inaugural year, and this sparked a lifelong love for Disney that he joyously passed on to all of his children and grandchildren. Music was a huge part of Jeff's life and he could often be heard playing "Last Date" and "Chantilly Lace" on the Steinway piano he liked nearly as much as he liked his kids. He held Mercedes Benz in the highest esteem and one of his biggest regrets was letting go of his silver Gullwing. Oh well. Jeff was known to enjoy a Beefeater martini or two (never three) and his kids grew up fighting over who got the coveted gin-soaked olive. Suffice it to say, there was no shortage of fun and laughter and good cheer for Jeff. He had a huge smile that came out easily and often. He was a true optimist, rarely complained, and figured things would probably work out.

In his later years, Parkinson's took away some of the ease and joy in his life, but he remained the kind and loving patriarch that he had always been. He never lost his sharp and irreverent sense of humor, and nothing made him or his family happier than when he surprised us all with a biting joke or perfectly timed one liner. He could (and did) spend many hours a day watching sports of all kinds, and he started each day with a printout of the TV viewing schedule from the newspaper. Susie took excellent care of him through it all, and together they taught us many lessons on courage, love, and perseverance. Jeff lived out the last week of his life at Zilber Family Hospice, receiving immaculate care in a room bursting with family, happy memories and 1000 piece puzzles. We could not be more proud of his life and legacy.

He was a WDA and GMDA member for 49 years.



Michael Hayes DDS

Dr. Michael W. Hayes, 81, passed away on Sunday February 11, 2024 at Lakeshore Manor in Oshkosh, WI. He was born to the late Gerald "Jeep" and Eileen Hayes on May 2, 1942. He married the love of his life, JoAnn Berghauer on December 8, 1972.

Michael attended Medical School at Marquette University and was a respected dentist who compassionately cared for his patients over the course of his career. He had a passion for sports, and was a standout basketball player at Marquette University High School (Class of 1960) as well as an elite level softball pitcher for national powerhouse Copper Hearth. In his leisure, he enjoyed being outside, fishing, birdwatching, golfing and bicycling.

Most of all, Michael's family was his greatest pride and he will be remembered as a generous, loving, happy and dedicated man. Michael's smile was contagious and will live on in the many hearts he touched.

He was a WDA and GMDA member for 56 years.

Dr. Leo Francis Wegerbauer

beloved husband, father, grandfather, and esteemed member of the dental community, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2024. He was born on March 28, 1937, in Cudahy, WI, to Joseph and Catherine (nee Hölzl) Wegerbauer and was very proud of his Austrian heritage.

Leo's journey began at Cudahy High School, where he distinguished himself not only academically but also as a standout athlete. Colleagues and friends fondly remember him as a "Superjock" due to his prowess in basketball, golf, volleyball, tennis, softball, skiing, and football, where he played offense, defense, and special teams. He served as a cheerleader for athletic events in which his grandchildren participated.

Leo attended Marquette University and the Marquette School of Dentistry. After graduating from Marquette University School of Dentistry in 1960, Leo embarked on a distinguished dental career until his retirement in 2005. His commitment to excellence and compassionate care earned him the respect and admiration of patients and peers alike. He cherished his role as President of the Greater Milwaukee Dental Association in 1983. In addition to his professional endeavors, Leo proudly served in the US Air Force.

He was a WDA and GMDA member for 62 years.



Dr. Paul Smith

Dr. Paul Douglas Smith of Hartland, WI passed away peacefully in his home at the age of 72 surrounded by loved ones on February 6th, 2024.

He was born in Hales Corners, WI on December 4th, 1951. He is a graduate of St. Mary's- Hales Corners Grade School (1966), Marquette High School (1970), and obtained both his undergraduate (1975) and Doctor of Dental Surgery (1979) degrees from Marquette University.

He opened his first private practice in Milwaukee. He ended his career running 2 practices in Milwaukee and Hartland. He started an organization that was one of the first to connect dental patients of Wisconsin to Medicaid benefits. He practiced dentistry for over forty years. He ran his businesses with customer service at the forefront, always making clientele happiness a priority. He made a significant positive impact on many loyal patients, employees, and colleagues.

He was an avid water skier, golfer, and Sheepshead player. As the host with the most and the rock of all social gatherings, he shared these interests with his loved ones through organized poker tournaments and card nights, golf trips, and celebrations for all events big and small. Wherever he was, you could find people gathered. His work ethic was one to be reckoned with; he believed that if you wanted something done you had to take the first steps. Never too old to stop learning, he obtained his pilot's license in his sixties. He will be remembered not only for ordering milk alongside most drink orders (alcoholic or not), but also for his undying love and dedication to his family and friends. He will be dearly missed, and always remembered.

He was a WDA and GMDA member for 34 years.

Legislative Meet and Greet March 7 at Pourman's



Dr. Katie Satula, Rep. Dora Drake, Dr. Cheska Avery-Stafford, WDA Director of Government Services Gus Gustafson and WDA President Dr. Chris Hansen



Drs. Chris Hansen, Andy Smith, Rick Mueller with Rep. Deb Andraca



Drs. Chris Hansen, Colleen Greene, Rep. Robyn Vining, Drs. Emily Schumacher, Katie Satula, Emily Eckdahl and Mike DeWan

Spring CE Thursday March 28 at Bucyrus Club



Dr. Katie Satula
introducing Judge
Derek Mosley

Unconscious Bias
Training for the Dental
Team



Dr. Tom Raimann, Ms Mick Dwyer, Drs. Christine Fisher,
Therese Pickart, Tom Raimann and Eddie Morales



Dr. Ruba Khader (front center) with her staff



Drs. Rick Mueller, Cheska Avery-Stafford, Angela Lueck, Christine Fisher, Emily Eckdahl, Tom Raimann, Judge Derek Mosely, Katie Satula, Kaitlin Jasper and Keith Clemence



Judge Derek Mosley with Dr. Cassy Van Kleunen

Spring Social April 11 at Aperitivo



Drs. Andy Smith, John Triggs, Angela Lueck and Sofya Kats



Drs. Geoff Ganzman, Kaitlin Jasper,
Jessica Messerschmidt and Robert Pugh



Drs. Nicole Sawatzke,
Megan Byers and Kelly
Fink with future dentist
Mabel Byers

Annual Meeting May 9 Gather at Fiserv Forum



New GMDA President Dr. Nicole Sawatzke (L)
Dr. Katie Satula getting her Presidential Plaque (R)



GMDA Board members in attendance
Front: Drs. Angela Lueck, Swathi Golla, Sirisha Pulapaka, Kaitlin Jasper
Back: Cheska Avery-Stafford, Geoff Glanzman, Andrea Emmerich,
Nicole Sawatzke, Rick Mueller, Katie Satula and Emily Eckdahl



GMDA Past-Presidents

Drs. Tom Raimann, Joe Nencka, Mike Grady, Mike Donohoo, Katie Satula, Angela Lueck, Cheska Avery-Stafford, Monica Hebl, John Moser and Chan Tran



Drs. Brett Waligora, Sadaf Kahn and Waqar Kahn



**Ms. Holly Peterson, Drs. Grace Tosi, Nick Tosi, Rose Pham,
Ms. Sarah Havens and Dr. Ahmad Eslami**

TIDBITS

Emily Eckdahl is looking for coverage for maternity leave from August 26-Oct 4. Contact her at Emily.sue.eckdahl@gmail.com. Any help would be appreciated! The office is Red Rose Dentistry 12789 W North Avenue, Brookfield, WI 53005

If you missed your WDA Drill You can sign up for the next Town Hall on June 25th featuring WDA President, Dr. Chris Hansen and WDA Executive Director, Mr. Mark Paget. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

The Wisconsin Oral Health Partnership is trying to expand the oral health workforce through connections between dentists and interested students. There are opportunities to meet, shadow or employ students. Contact DHSOralHealthPathway@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Ascension experienced a breach that shut down access to all electronic records across their entire network greatly affecting patient care. The ADA sent out a notice that Oral Surgery offices are being targeted. One way the hackers cause damage is to act as a new patient that is having trouble filling out the online forms. They offer to scan them as an attachment. When staff opens the attachment the malware infects the computer. It might be a good time to educate your team and ensure you have cyber security coverage. WDA Insurance and Services Corporation (WDAISC) can help you. insuranceformembers.com



Become an MPS Professional Partner!

The MPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) Office needs businesses and professionals to be part of a network for students to prepare for college, technical school, apprenticeships, and great jobs. You can make a difference for Milwaukee students!

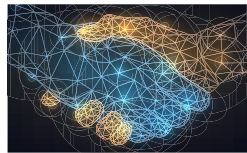
Many one-time, short-term, and long-term options are available.

Youth Apprenticeship Employer: Hire an MPS student for a youth apprenticeship with options to retain the student after graduation.

Intern Employer: Accept students for paid or unpaid internships to get experience and develop job skills.

Advisory Board Member: Through regular meetings at select high schools, help develop programs and opportunities.

Host a Student Tour: Give students an inside look at your company and industry.



Visit a Classroom: Chat with students about your career and give insights about your field.

Participate in Mock Interviews: Help students gain experience and confidence to apply for jobs.

Review and Offer Feedback for Student Resumes: Offer tips so students can refine and craft a quality resume.

Be a Classroom Mentor: On a regular basis, offer advice and guidance on student projects, best practices, and career paths.

Please fill out our online form at mpsmke.com/ctepartner to indicate your preferences and become an MPS Professional Partner. A member of our CTE team will contact you. If you aren't sure which options are best for you, or if you have questions, please contact the CTE office at 414-475-8202.

Professionals are needed in dozens of career fields:

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Arts, AV Technology & Communications
- Health Science
- Marketing
- Architecture & Construction
- Business
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)
- Education
- Information Technology
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- Finance
- Manufacturing



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GMDA Golf Outing

Mark your calendars! The annual golf outing is scheduled for **Monday, July 29, 2024**.

It will be held at the prestigious **The Legend at Merrill Hills in Waukesha**. The outing will kick-off with a 1pm shotgun start and dinner to follow in their newly renovated facilities.

There will be numerous hole and raffle prizes. Call your colleagues, organize a four-some, and spend an afternoon out of the office at one of SE Wisconsin's best golf clubs.

Email invitations and registration information to follow.

Cheers,

John Triggs



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**If you would like to contribute to
the newsletter please contact
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