



Suffolk County DENTAL SOCIETY

The Official Publication
of the Suffolk County Dental Society

Suffolk Dental *Bulletin*

Volume 54 - Number 2
Summer 2025

Volunteers and Supporters of our April 26, 2025

Give Kids a Smile Event



Our April 26th Give Kids a Smile event at the LI Aquarium with 130 volunteers delivered donated dental care to more than 200 underserved children. A very big thank you to our Ultimate Diamond Sponsor – Healthfirst, and to our Diamond Sponsor Henry Schein without who's support this would not be possible. A big shout out to our other sponsors including the NYS Dental Foundation, Lions Club (Mattituck), Catholic Health Services (St. Charles Hospital), and of course the American Dental Association. Huge thanks go out to our ADA Member Volunteer Dentists and their volunteer supporters including the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine, Hygiene Care Center at Farmingdale College, Eastern Suffolk Boces, Long Island Head Start, Bixhorn Technical Center and the Sunrise Hi Railers.

Our upcoming events are on page 3. The [website](http://www.suffolkdental.org) (www.suffolkdental.org), our emails and our social sites are great resources to stay up to date.

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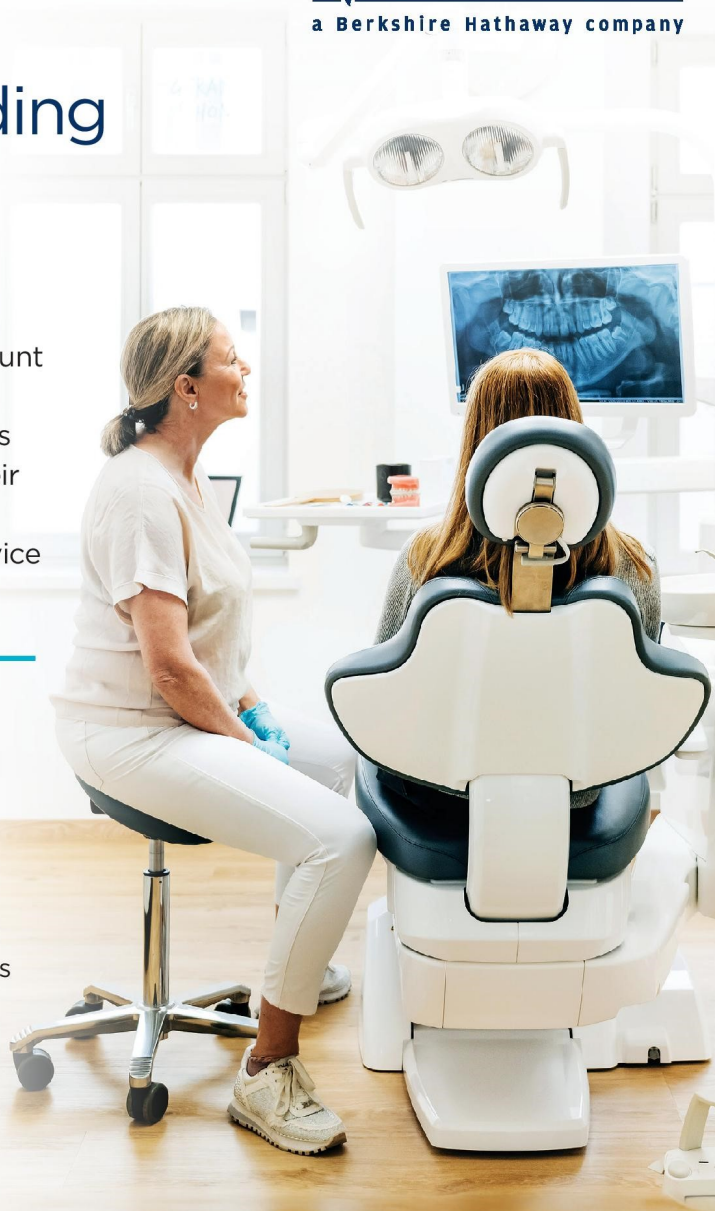
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Editor

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Advertising rates and other information can be found on SuffolkDental.Org, inquiries should be directed to the Suffolk County Dental Society, (631) 232-1400, or via e-mail to Contact@SuffolkDental.Org.

Date	SCDS Event
6/26/2025	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine - Welcoming the Residents
7/30/2025	New Dentist Members Only Event! Summer Social at Top Golf Advanced Registration Required as space is limited.
9/10/2025	Seminar Series Event - Transforming Dental Medicine Powered by Artificial Intelligence - Nathalia Andrade DDS, MSc, PhD
9/14/2025	New Dentist Exclusive - Imaging Advancements, Artifacts and Clinical Applications - No Charge for New Dentist Members
9/15/2025	Board of Directors Meeting
9/24/2025	Zoom General Membership Meeting
10/6/2025	Board of Directors Meeting
10/8/2025	Seminar Series Event - Precision, Productivity and Ideal Patient Care - Dr. Robert Vogel
11/17/2025	Board of Directors Meeting
11/19/2025	General Membership Meeting
12/3/2025	SAVE THE DATE - COMPLIANCE DAY
1/25/2026	SCDS Officer Installation - SAVE THE DATE

More details on events can be found on the back cover and within the bulletin.

Please note there are several events and courses in active planning, watch our website and our emails and social sites for updates (as events are subject to change). Your support, patronage and patience are appreciated as always. Please send any comments to Contact@SuffolkDental.Org.

[SCDS Registration Site](#)

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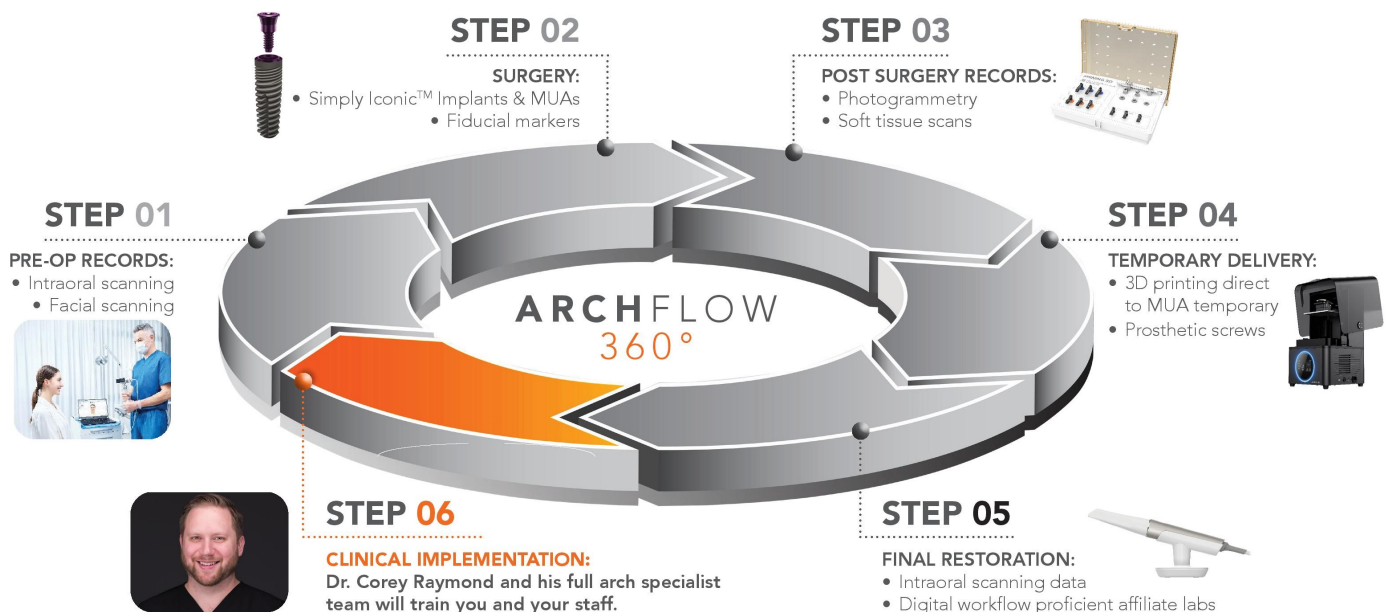
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A Message from Your President

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings to you all! It has been a productive springtime season for the Suffolk County Dental Society. We have had many successful events this spring. Give Kids a Smile at the Riverhead Aquarium was a great success. We screened over 200 children and had walk-ins accommodated as well at this large scale event on Saturday April 26th. It was truly a great event and everyone taking part should be very proud of the outcome. The Greater Long Island Dental Meeting was the day after! We partnered with the Nassau County Dental Society for a one-day Sunday meeting this year on April 27, it was well received by attendees and sponsors.

Going forward we are facing many challenges as a profession. As of 2025, there are pressing challenges that impact both practitioners and patients. Staffing shortages and financial pressures are two of the biggest issues.

1. Staffing Shortages and Burnout

Recruitment and retention of dental professionals remain critical concerns. Approximately 60% of dentists report difficulties in hiring and keeping staff, particularly dental hygienists and assistants. Factors contributing to this include high turnover rates, burnout, and an aging workforce, with many professionals nearing retirement. Additionally, job satisfaction issues, such as demanding workloads and limited career advancement opportunities, exacerbate the problem.

2. Financial Pressures: Rising Costs and Low Reimbursements

Dental practices are grappling with escalating operational expenses, including wages, supplies, and equipment. However, insurance reimbursements, especially from Medicaid and Medicare, have not kept pace, leading to financial strain. This disparity forces many practices to reconsider their participation in certain insurance networks.

We are looking forward to a productive summer. We are looking forward to the New Dentist Members Only Event at Top Golf on Wednesday, July



30th at 6:30. Please enjoy some family time! There's nothing better than family time and enjoying everything Long Island has to offer!

The following are sources of information used in the above: [Dentistry 411™](#), [ADA News](#) Ai was used as a research assistant for this article.

Best regards,
Bill Bast

President, Suffolk County Dental Society



Above 2 photos - Care is delivered at our Give Kids a Smile Event on April 26th 2025.

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Retirees Luncheon Group

We're organizing an informal group for retired dentists who practiced or live in the following areas: Setauket, Stony Brook, Port Jefferson, Port Jefferson Station, Mt. Sinai, Miller Place, Rocky Point, Sound Beach, Ridge, Middle Island, Coram, Selden, Centereach and Lake Grove. It will be purely social, to have lunch and socialize with old (I use that word advisedly) friends and colleagues.

We'll meet at a restaurant that will be centrally located and the frequency we'll determine at the first gathering. There will be no dues. We'll just pay in cash when we arrive at the restaurant. The amount will be determined when I have secured a location and find out what the all inclusive cost will be. It is estimated that it will be \$35-40. That will include salad, entrée, dessert, soda or wine and gratuity.

If you're interested please email me at the following email address: retired@drjay.com. Include your name, where you live or practiced and your email address. As soon as this appears to be viable I will let you know.

Thanks for your interest.

Jay Orlikoff, DDS

What's the problem?

I often think about the challenges organized dentistry is facing, in particular issues with declining membership market-share nationally and in NY State. I feel we (Suffolk County Dental Society) are an excellent proxy (a microcosm) for the larger organizations in terms of the way our members think, the issues

our members raise, how they vote on issues, etc. When we focused ourselves on increasing membership market-share, we were successful. We discovered what worked and what didn't work. Indeed, we grew membership market-share in 2021, 2022 and 2023 while states and national declined on that same metric. We don't have a trusted measure for our 2024 exit numbers as the Salesforce/Fonteva statistics were not apples to apples comparison. We recognized we have membership crisis, we focused on it, utilized reserves and we delivered. So why hasn't this happened at the State and National level? Certainly we know these organizations are well intentioned. We have heard those organizations tell us Membership is the focus, but really, for 35 years or more it's been an irreversible trend.

I've had leadership positions in a large global corporation, when a true crisis emerged all resources were brought to bear and focused on the crisis. These could be multi-year programs that required total alignment, incentive packages were aligned across the organization to deliver the desired outcome. I believe this can work in the national and state organizations. So why has this not happened? One difference I observe is the nature of leadership in the national and state organizations.

These organizations have annual leadership changes and this in itself can create significant challenges including:

1. ****Lack of Continuity****: Frequent leadership turnover disrupts long-term strategic planning. New leaders may shift priorities, abandoning initiatives before they can yield results, leading to wasted resources and inconsistent direction.
2. ****Erosion of Trust and Morale****: Employees

may feel uncertain or skeptical about new leadership. This can lower morale and reduce engagement.

3. ****Short-Term Focus****: Leaders with only a year in their role may prioritize quick wins over sustainable growth, undermining long-term goals for the sake of immediate results or personal legacy.

4. ****Stakeholder Confusion****: External partners, clients, or stakeholders may find it difficult to maintain consistent relationships or trust when leadership changes annually, potentially weakening partnerships or credibility.

5. ****Resistance to Change****: Employees may resist new initiatives if they expect the next leader to pivot again, leading to a culture of inertia or disengagement where teams "wait out" the current leader's tenure.

6. ****Decision-Making Delays****: New leaders often need time to assess situations, which can slow down critical decisions. In a one-year cycle, this adjustment period consumes a significant portion of their tenure.

I suspect these things have contributed to thus far irreversible trend of membership market-share. What are your thoughts?

Please send any comments or questions to Contact@SuffolkDental.Org or call us at 631-232-1400.

Bill Panzarino - Executive Director, SCDS





Scan the QR code for information on each course and to register.

Call the office to save 10% when you purchase the remaining 2025 Seminar Series Events (631-232-1400)



SEMINAR SERIES 2025 #3 September 10, 2025 9am-4pm

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SEMINAR SERIES 2025 October 8, 2025 9am-4pm

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New Dentist Summer Social

July 30th, 2025 6:30pm at TopGolf



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Space is limited, YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE

<https://www.suffolkdental.org/calendar>



**New Dentist
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September 14, 2025 @12pm



Imaging Advancements,
Artifacts and Clinical
Applications

Eric Mastanduno, DDS

**No Charge for SCDS New
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Introducing - SCDS Member Spotlight!

Our first member in the spotlight is Dr. Matthew A. Hanna, DMD

Rooted in community, driven by mentorship, and shaped by organized dentistry

Dr. Matthew Hanna's path to dentistry wasn't a straight line. As a college student majoring in biochemistry and obsessed with CSI, he initially envisioned a career in forensic science. But a summer internship at the NYC Medical Examiner's office changed that. "Working in a windowless lab all day, I realized I needed a people-oriented career," he says. "And during my wisdom tooth extraction, my oral surgeon casually suggested dentistry. That moment stuck."

Practicing Where It All Began

Today, Dr. Hanna is a partner at **Smithtown Family Dentistry**, practicing in the very community he grew up in. "I've treated teachers, classmates, their parents—and now their kids and grandkids. It's incredibly rewarding," he shares. "Some patients even travel from out of state to see me."

The Power of Organized Dentistry

Dr. Hanna's connection to organized dentistry began long before dental school. As a high schooler, he attended a Suffolk County Dental Society Installation Dinner honoring his cousin, Dr. Anthony Maresca—affectionately known as "Uncle Tony." Years later, during his residency at Stony Brook, Uncle Tony introduced him to Dr. Paul Leary, who became a mentor and example of leadership in organized dentistry.

"I assumed late-night meetings and advocacy trips were just what dentists did," he laughs. "But that was organized dentistry in action. Without it, I wouldn't be in my current practice or teaching at Stony Brook."

Dr. Hanna emphasizes that the **Suffolk County Dental Society** has been instrumental in his growth. "The CE, the vendor relationships, the peer collaboration—it's invaluable. But more than that, it's the mentors and friendships that shaped my path."

Teaching & Giving Back

With a mother who taught nursing at Suffolk Community College for 40 years, Dr. Hanna knew early on that teaching would be part of his career. Now a clinical instructor at **Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine**, he mentors dental students and residents both at school and in his private office.



"Teaching keeps me sharp and grounded," he says. "It reminds me to see the person, not just the procedure. And it's my way of giving back—just like my mentors gave to me."

Advice to New Dentists

Dr. Hanna encourages students and new dentists to get involved early. "Dentistry becomes second nature. What really matters is the network you build. That's what shapes how you serve your patients and your community."

His practical advice? "Live like a student a little longer to pay off loans—but invest in CE. And join the New Dentist Committee. Oh, and find a good accountant and lawyer!"

Life Outside the Office

A fun fact? Dr. Hanna has never had a cavity. He's also a proud father to Jacob (8) and Emily (6), and husband to Jessica. A fan of the Mets, Islanders, Knicks, and Giants, he also enjoys running, skiing, swimming, and soccer.

If he could change one thing about the profession, he'd start with access. "Dental education needs to be more affordable. And we need to raise insurance reimbursement so more patients can get quality care." **Below—Dr. Hanna with Emily and Jacob**



[Continued from page 9]

What Keeps Him Inspired

"My staff," he says. "At Smithtown Family Dentistry, we're a team. They treat every patient like family, and that makes coming to work something I genuinely look forward to."

For Dr. Hanna, dentistry is more than a profession—it's a lifelong connection to community, teaching, and organized service. And thanks to his dedication, that connection continues to grow stronger every day.

I'm grateful for Dr. Hanna's willingness to participate in our first member spotlight! If you know someone who would be a great feature in our next article, please email me at hjtaylor6@gmail.com.

Hailey Taylor, DDS
Chairperson SCDS Membership Committee



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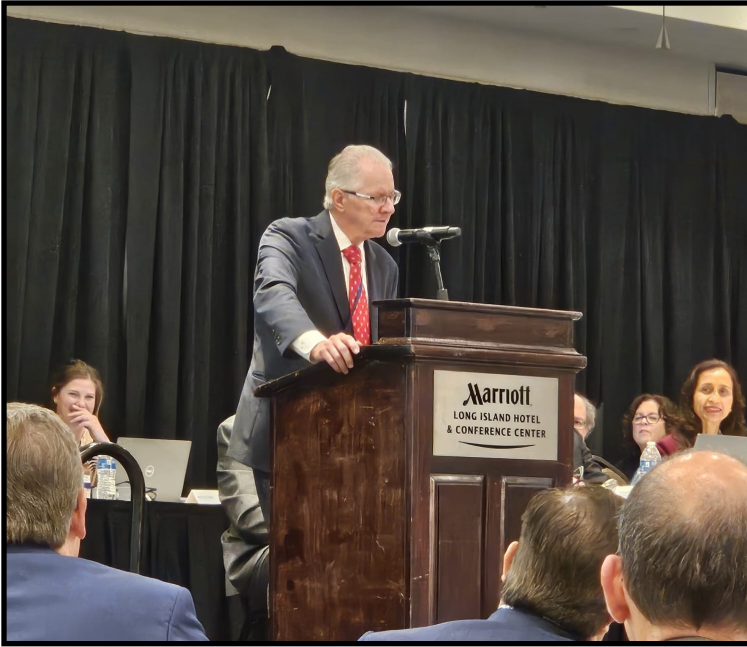
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Moments from 2025 NYSDA House of Delegates, May 2025



Above - Dr. Guenter Jonke gives his speech after receiving the highly prestigious Mark Feldman Distinguished service Award



Above - Dr. Paul Leary (left) takes oath having been elected to his 3rd term as NYSDA Treasurer

Below - Dr. Martin Dominger (*3rd from the left*) takes the oath as NYSDA Trustee from Suffolk County Dental Society.



Below - Dr. Maria Maranga (l) (NYS Dental Foundation Chair) and Ms. Stacey McIllduff (r) (NYS Dental Foundation ED) at NYSDF Lunch.



SUFFOLK COUNTY-DATC DENTAL ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

A very serious shortage of dental assistants currently exists in New York.

The Suffolk County Dental Society (SCDS), in conjunction with the Dental Auxiliary Training Center, is pleased to announce the **40TH year** of continuation of our comprehensive dental assisting training course. To meet the demand for trained dental assistants, the Suffolk County Dental Society sponsors this course to help prepare students who have a desire to learn and work as a dental assistant. SCDS dentist members interested in interviewing DATC students register their dental assisting job openings with DATC. **The following is course information for the DATC program which will begin in September.**

FUNDAMENTALS of CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTING TRAINING COURSE

COURSE DATES:	September 18, 2025, through January 22, 2026 (every Thursday evening for 15 weeks)
PLACE:	St. Charles Hospital & Rehabilitation Center 200 Belle Terre Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777
TIME:	6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

THE COURSE IS DESIGNED FOR:

- * Already employed dental assistants who have no formal classroom training.
- * Working dental assistants who are interested in preparing to take the DANB Exam.
- * Students who are interested in entering or re-entering the career field.

This comprehensive course will provide a learning experience in the theory & background of the profession of dental assisting and provide hands-on-training in a clinical classroom setting. The course has been structured in such a way that the total time required for completion is only 15 sessions totaling 45 hours plus a 15-hour workbook study project.

The course is a total of 60 hours. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

Dental Terminology	Charting	Disease Transmission
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The School of Dental Medicine at Stony Brook University is seeking applications for a full-time (12-month), clinical-track faculty appointments in Department of General Dentistry. <https://apptrkr.com/6272496>

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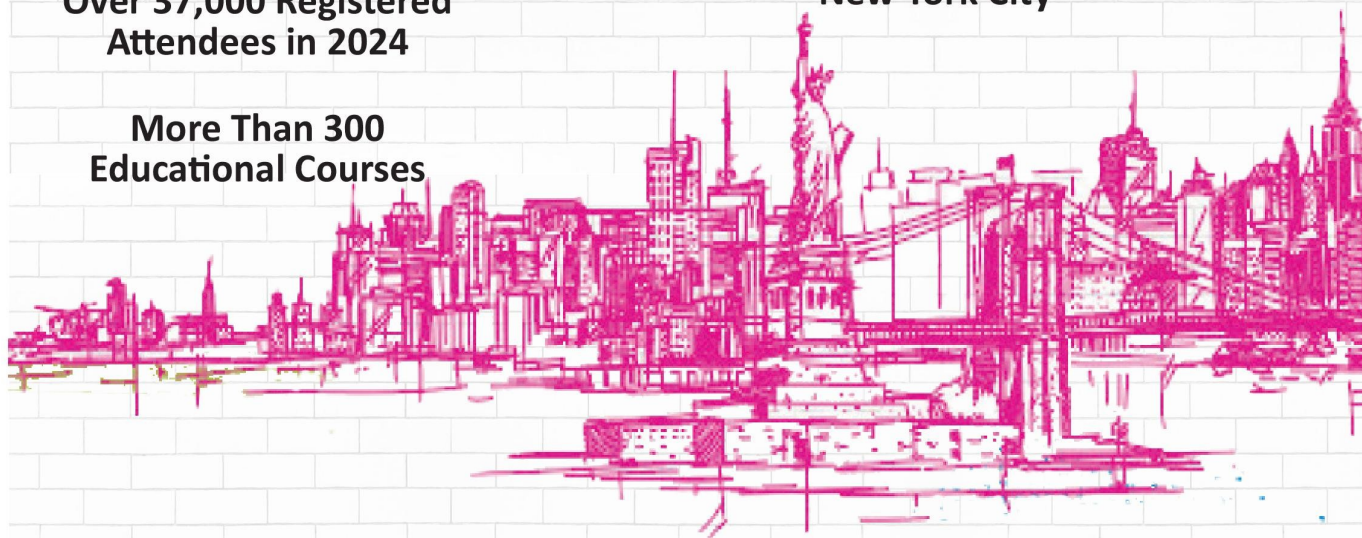
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New Dentist Corner with Dr. Devin Klein



How would you like to pay your dues? As the NYSDA House of Delegates draws near, I want to remind our members that we have the ability to enact

change in how we pay our dues to the organized dentistry tripartite. And with that, I want to know your opinions. Look at the options I provided below and respond to my poll by emailing me at devin.j.klein@gmail.com with the title of your email being the corresponding dues structure. With this information, I will draft a resolution to bring to the 2026 NYSDA House of Delegates and or perhaps the ADA House of Delegates in October of 2025. We need to hear from you!

- Dues Paid in Full Once Yearly
- 12-month Auto Billing
- 6-month Auto Billing
- Some other Dues Structure (Please explain)

In other news, as we head into the Summer, we

inch closer to our remaining New Dentist events. On Wednesday, July 30th we have our annual networking event at TopGolf in Holtsville. Please sign up as soon as possible since this event always fills up! On Sunday, September 14th, we will be having a Radiology based continuing education event at the Riverhead Cider House. Dr. Eric Mastanduono, one of our New Dentist Committee members, will be providing us with an interactive lecture. Last but not least, we are planning on having an Endodontic based continuing education event in the Fall. Stay tuned for the date, location, and the lecturer!

Devin Klein, DDS, MS
SCDS New Dentist Chair and
Vice-President SCDS



FORMER NYSDA TRUSTEE GUENTER J. JONKE, DMD

THANK YOU! I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to have

served as trustee during the past 4 years. It has been an honor to contribute to this wonderful society and to work along so many dedicated members, including: Kevin Henner, Paul Leary, Steve Snyder, Paul Markowitz, Jeff Seiver, Maria Maranga, Scott Firestone, Ivan and Claudia Vasquez, Kerry Lane, John Lagner, Nick Vittoria, Pat Hanlon, Steve Feigelson, Marty Dominger, Jimmy Kilim-



itzoglou, Radha Munk, Tony Maresca, Craig Smith, John Guariglia, Trish Swanson, Lauren Heisinger, Natalia Elson, Bill Bast, Laurence Schwartz, Hailey and Devin Klein. Their work behind the scenes contribute significantly to our collective goals and visions we all share. They all go above and beyond but no more than Bill Panzarino, our executive director and Carol Deerwester, our executive assistant. It is their passion and commitment that motivates all of us. Our society is so very fortunate to have both of them inspire the rest of us. We are truly a family thanks to Bill and Carol.

As my term has come to an end, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am confident that our society will continue to thrive under Marty Dominger as our new trustee. I will be watching from the sidelines and wish him the very best. Please consider joining us to fulfill your obligations as a member dentist. I am proud I did.

Guenter Jonke, DMD

Immediate Past NYSDA Trustee

Obituaries

Richard Stabile, DDS – Dr. Stabile passed away on March 12, 2025 in Fort Myers, FL at the age of 85. Dr. Stabile served in the Army, graduated from Georgetown University in 1964, and practiced in Huntington, NY until his retirement. During his career he was an active member of some SCDS committees such as GLIDM and Peer Review and was a founding member of the charitable organization Dentists for a Better Huntington. Dr. Stabile was a 60-year member of the ADA.

Stanley Youdelman, DDS – Dr. Youdelman, 85, passed away on April 10, 2025. Dr. Youdelman, an oral surgeon, graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1964 and practiced at Suffolk Oral Surgery Associates until his retirement in 2005. He generously pledged philanthropic support for a conference room dedicated to his late wife, Lois, at the University of Buffalo. Dr. Youdelman was a member of the ADA for 59 years.

We welcome the following new members to the *Suffolk County Dental Society*

Elected between March and May 2025

Transferred In

Rebecca Dunninger, DDS
Lawrence Lambroia, DDS
Rachel Moore, DDS
Emily Thomas, DMD

Transferred In - Continued

Pooja Tolani, DDS
Hannah Wong, DMD
Danielle Zeifman, DDS

Welcome Back

Marc Adelberg, DDS



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WHOLE LOT GOING ON FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY



Above — May 7th General Membership Meeting



Above — May 10th Shredding Event



Above — May 14th Seminar Series



Above — May 20th School of Dental Medicine Awards



Above — May 21st Dental Hygiene Awards



DR. SAHASRA DR. GUPTA DR. GRANGER



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Date	SCDS Event	Location	Time
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine - Welcoming the Residents	SBSDM - Learning Oaks Center	12:15-1pm
Wednesday, July 30, 2025	New Dentist Members Only Event! Summer Social at Top Golf Advanced Registration Required as space is limited.	TopGolf - Holtsville NY	6:30pm-9pm
Wednesday, September 10, 2025	Seminar Series Event - Transforming Dental Medicine Powered by Artificial Intelligence - Nathalia Andrade DDS, MSc, PhD	150 Motor Pkwy	9am-4pm
Sunday, September 14, 2025	New Dentist Exclusive - Imaging Advancements, Artifacts and Clinical Applications - No Charge for New Dentist Members	Riverhead Ciderhouse - Riverhead NY	Noon-3pm
Monday, September 15, 2025	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, September 24, 2025	Zoom General Membership Meeting	Virtual Event on Zoom	7pm-9pm
Monday, October 6, 2025	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	Seminar Series Event - Precision, Productivity and Ideal Patient Care - Dr. Robert Vogel	150 Motor Pkwy	9am-4pm
Monday, November 17, 2025	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, November 19, 2025	General Membership Meeting	Radisson Hotel - 110 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge	6pm-9pm
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	SAVE THE DATE - COMPLIANCE DAY	150 Motor Pkwy	8am-9pm
Sunday, January 25, 2026	SCDS Officer Installation - SAVE THE DATE	Watermill Caterers - Smithtown NY	11am-3pm
	Defensive Driving, HIPAA, . Friday Morning Seminars and New Dentist Events, CPR		

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday December 3rd, COMPLIANCE DAY

Knock out your required courses all in one day right here in Hauppauge

[SCDS Registration Site](#)



[SCDS Calendar](#)



Registering for Our Events is Easy...

- 1 - Click on the SCDS Registration Site (or Scan)
- 2 - Click Login (top right) and then login (using your ADA Credentials)
- 3 - The events will be redisplayed and you can select any of the events and register.
- 4 - You will be emailed both an Order Confirmation and an Event Confirmation.

Issue with your ADA Login? The phone number for the American Dental Association (ADA) Member Service Center is (800) 621-8099. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 6 PM Central Time. You can also contact the ADA Member Service Center by email membership@ada.org or by using the live chat button on the ADA website.