



# Suffolk Dental

**Suffolk County**  
DENTAL SOCIETY

*Bulletin*

The Official Publication  
of the Suffolk County Dental Society

Volume 55 - Number 1  
Spring 2026

## The Greater Long Island Dental Meeting

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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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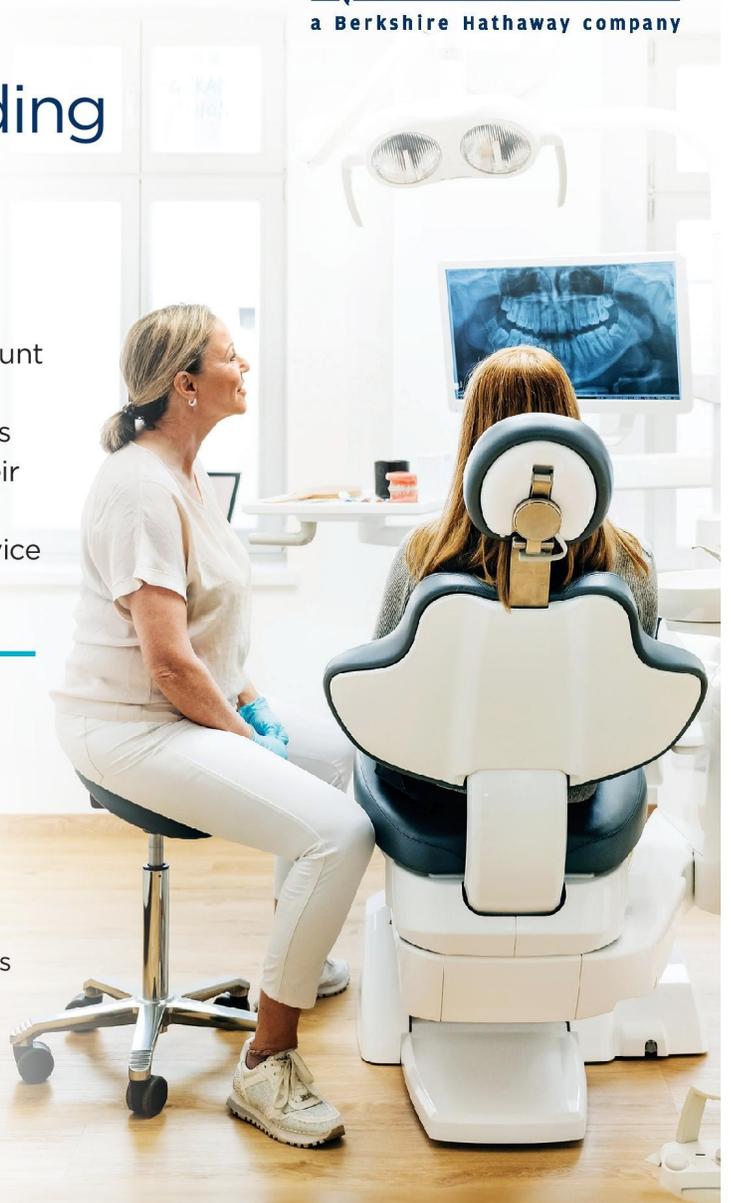
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# Suffolk County Dental Society

150 Motor Parkway, Suite 123, Hauppauge, NY 11788

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e-mail: [contact@suffoldental.org](mailto:contact@suffoldental.org)

website: [www.suffolkdental.org](http://www.suffolkdental.org)

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*Executive Assistant & Assistant Editor*

## Officers of the Society, 2026

**Natalia Elson, DDS, President**

**Devin J. Klein, DDS, MS, President-Elect**

**Alan Berman, DDS, Vice-President**

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Editor



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Association of Dental  
Editors

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Date	SCDS Event
3/25/2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 - 7CE Event - What's New?</a>
4/13/2026	Board of Directors Meeting
4/18/2026	<a href="#">Give Kids a Smile - Sponsorship Information</a>
4/26-27/2026	<a href="#">GLIDM - The Greater Long Island Dental Meeting - Two-Day Event! a - All Sponsorship Information b - Exclusive Sponsorships Information</a>
5/11/2026	Board of Directors Meeting
5/13/2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 - 7CE Event - Explanations Not Excuses: Using Imaging and Artificial Intelligence for Better Outcomes and Communication - Kyle L. Reeves, DDS</a>
5/20/2026	General Membership Meeting - New Location - Commack Hamlet Golf and Country Club
5/30/2026	Shredding Day - 150 Motor Parkway - 9am-noon
6/17/2026	Golf Outing - Willow Creek Golf and CC <a href="#">Golfer and Sponsor Information Here!</a>
9/14/2026	Board of Directors Meeting
9/16/2026	General Membership Meeting - ZOOM
9/23/2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 - 7CE Event - The role of the dental professional in the detection and management of pediatric sleep-disordered breathing - Michael K. DeLuke, DDS, MDS</a>
10/19/2026	Board of Directors Meeting
10/21/2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 7CE Event - Dr. Andrew Burke - Digital Dentistry Planning Workflow: From Planning to Optimal Outcome</a>
11/4/2026	SPECIAL ALL DAY - BLOCKBUSTER LECTURE - SPACE IS LIMITED
11/16/2026	Board of Directors Meeting
11/18/2026	General Membership Meeting - New Location - Commack Hamlet Golf and Country Club
12/2/2026	COMPLIANCE DAY 2026

**More details and 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](mailto:Contact@SuffolkDental.Org).**

Scan this QR Code for a link to our Calendar



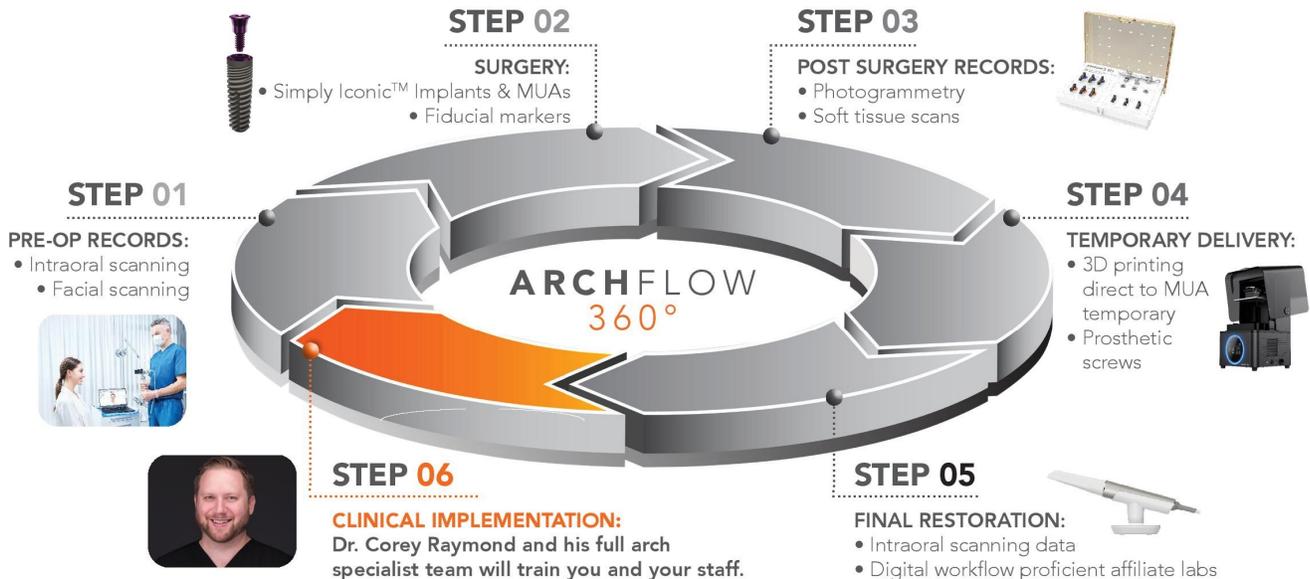
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## A Message from Your President

Dear Colleagues,

It is truly an honor to serve as President of the Suffolk County Dental Society. I am grateful for your trust and support, and I look forward to a meaningful year working together as colleagues, professionals, and friends who share the same mission—providing the best possible care to our patients and strengthening the future of dentistry.

Dentistry is changing rapidly. Innovation is everywhere—digital technology, artificial intelligence, new materials, and advanced treatment approaches are transforming how we practice. I strongly believe that our responsibility is not only to keep up with these advancements, but to stay ahead of them. We must continue to educate ourselves, mentor our students, and help our patients understand that dentistry is not optional—it is essential healthcare.

Oral health is deeply connected to overall health. It impacts systemic disease, healing, confidence, and quality of life. My vision is to bring dentistry to a level where the public truly understands its value and where dental professionals are recognized as key healthcare providers. This also means strengthening collaboration with medical specialists so that dentistry and medicine work together as one team for the benefit of our patients.

As many of you know, I am passionate about laser dentistry. I have witnessed firsthand how laser technology improves comfort, healing, and clinical outcomes. My goal is to help expand education and responsible laser use in our profession, because I believe innovation should always be used to improve patient care and raise the standards of treatment.

I also deeply believe in organized dentistry. A strong dental society gives us strength, unity, and a voice. I encourage new graduates and colleagues who are not yet involved to join and become active. When we stand together, we have the power to shape the future of our profession, advocate for our patients, and protect what we have worked so hard to build.

We live in a time when dentistry is too often judged by insurance limitations rather than professional knowledge and clinical excellence. We must continue reminding the public—and the healthcare system—that quality dentistry is not defined by a fee schedule. It is defined by education, experience, integrity, and the commitment we bring to every patient we treat.

I am excited for the year ahead. Together, we can promote innovation, strengthen our profession, support one another, and continue delivering the level of care our patients deserve.

With gratitude and respect,

**Natalia Elson, DDS - President Suffolk County Dental Society**

**PS - See you at GLIDM! [www.GLIDM.org](http://www.GLIDM.org)**

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## EARLY BIRD RATE - Register Now With the QR Code



## The Few. The Proud. The Leaders.

Alright, I borrowed this from the Marines, because we could use a winning slogan to recruit additional leaders to the Suffolk County Dental Society. Alright, not just Suffolk, but NYSDA and the ADA as well. Where are the leaders who will carry the torch in 5 years' time. Who will have experience and know how? Who will be able to see through a line of crap, call it out and put forward something that is really worth pursuing? Who will hold up a mirror to ineffectiveness and enforce accountability? The profession is healthy, dental schools continue to open, more are entering the profession than are leaving the profession. This is truly wonderful. There is so much to capitalize on, yet, membership continues to be a major issue, and some might argue leadership even more so. I don't choose to have that debate at this moment. But I do feel that leadership is required to solve the membership crisis. Some might argue leadership has to recognize there is a membership crisis. Again, a separate debate, but membership and leadership issues aren't particular to organized dentistry. These exist generally in trade/business associations



outside of dentistry. Only 3 years in the past 16 years evidencing growth, all the other years a decline. By my math, this means a smaller pool from which leaders can emerge. So is it generational shifts, changing workforce preferences, technology, economic pressures, all of these and some others? Interesting in that despite the shrinking membership of the individual associations, the number of Associations has grown over that period. I see this as splintering. I think of it as specialty organizations attracting members who have elected to leave larger organizations, now both are ineffective.

**LEADERS WANTED - pg 13**

**Bill Panzarino - Executive Director  
SCDS**

### Guess who's coming to Suffolk!

Here are some hints... EMAIL your guess to [CONTACT@SUFFOLKDENTAL.org](mailto:CONTACT@SUFFOLKDENTAL.org)

- World Renowned
- Founder of Digital Smile Design
- Internationally Recognized Leader
- Highly Coveted Lecturer from Sao Paulo, Brazil

**SAVE THE DATE - November 4, 2026**

An all day lecture (9am-4pm), Breakfast, Lunch and a rare opportunity to engage with this speaker. Space is limited. Can't wait to know more - 631-232-1400. 1st correct guess gets 50% off 1 ticket

**Associate Dentist Needed** - Large multi-specialty group practice is experiencing significant growth and therefore looking for top-notch Associate Dentists in Riverhead, Wading River, North Babylon, East Islip, and Amityville. Qualifications and Skills: DDS/DMD from an accredited University and an active State Dental Board license. A personable chairside manner. Earning potential of \$300K+ annual income, Full-time employees also enjoy healthcare benefits, continuing education courses, a company-sponsored 401(k), and malpractice reimbursement. Reach out to [chris@thesmilist.com](mailto:chris@thesmilist.com) today!

**General Dentist Office for Sale in Brentwood NY** – Four chairs, high volume insurance practice, open 5 days, average gross \$850 k. Can start as associate to buy in. With or without real estate. Text or Call 631-524-4578

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**Dental Office for Lease in Huntington** - Fully furnished three operatory dental office available for lease through the owner and purchase all equipment and cabinetry in Huntington Village after June 1st. Great new grad opportunity. Call 631-335-7558.

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The Greater Long Island Dental Meeting - April 26 & 27  
[www.GLIDM.org](http://www.GLIDM.org) - Long Island Hilton, Melville, NY

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 GREATER LONG ISLAND DENTAL MEETING

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Suffolk County DENTAL SOCIETY

Free for SCDS Members!  
**Shredding Event**  
 May 30, 2026  
 9am-Noon  
 @ 150 Motor Parkway  
 Hauppauge NY 11788

## Why Membership in Organized Dentistry Still Matters



### A Strong Start to an Engaging Year at Suffolk County Dental Society

SCDS is off to an exciting and productive year, offering members valuable opportunities for education, engagement, and connection.

On December 3, 2025, SCDS hosted its annual Compliance Day, welcoming approximately 100 Suffolk County dentists who took advantage of the opportunity to complete many of their required non-dental, continuing education credits in a single day. Courses included CPR, risk management, infection control, and more. This is one of the most efficient and stress-free ways for members to complete their compliance CEs and spend the rest of their time on clinical interests. The strong turnout highlighted just how valuable this one-day format is for our busy members.

Momentum continued into the new year on February 11, when over 110 members joined us for our General Membership Meeting via Zoom. This meeting marked the first official meeting led by our new President, Natalia Elson. Members were treated to an engaging and forward-thinking lecture by Leon Klemperer, who explored the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence in dentistry and how these technologies are expected to shape the future of patient care and practice

management. As always, this was another excellent opportunity to earn CE credits included with SCDS membership.

We also remind members that the New Officer Installation Brunch has been rescheduled to March 7, and will be held at the Watermill in Smithtown. We look forward to celebrating our leadership together at this special event. Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for the first Seminar Series lecture of the year, a 7-CE credit program titled: What's New? Materials and Tech that Expedite Excellence presented by Joshua Austin, DDS, MAGD. This highly anticipated program promises practical insights ready to be incorporated directly into your everyday dental practice.

Thank you to all our members for your continued participation and support. We look forward to another year of outstanding education, collaboration, and professional growth.

**Hailey Taylor, DDS**

**Membership Chair SCDS**

[Hjtaylor6@gmail.com](mailto:Hjtaylor6@gmail.com)

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

Elected between December 2025 and February 2026

#### **Transferred In**

Venessa Callejo, DDS

#### **Welcome Back**

Christopher Oglesby, DDS

#### **Residents/Grad Students**

Rachel Eshtiaghpour, DDS

Darius Mozayan, DMD

### **Congratulations to our members who have reached**

#### ***Life Membership* status in 2026!**

Life Membership is automatically granted to current members who have at least 30 consecutive or 40 total years of membership with the ADA

**Dr. John Guariglia**

**Dr. Meena Shah**

**Dr. Erika Smit**

**Dr. Karen Verga**

**Dr. Craig Levine**

**Dr. Charles Shemet**

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# The Greater Long Island Dental Meeting

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Sunday 4/26/26 Event	Start	End	CE	Speaker(s)
HARMONY IN THE OP: TOP TIPS FOR HYGIENISTS & DENTISTS	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	2 CE	Debbie Seidel Bittke RDH
Mandated Infection Control 4/26 10am	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	3 CE	Peter Mychajliw DDS
PROSTHODONTICS FOR THE PROFESSION	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	3 CE	Dana Marzocco DMD, Patricia Swanson DDS
Laser Perio and Soft Tissue Management for Doctors and Hygienists	10:30 AM	1:30 PM	3 CE	Larry Lieberman DDS
CPR/AED Mandatory Certification 4/26 10:30am	10:30 AM	1:30 PM	3 CE	HDWT
Weed Will... Weed Will... Rock You!	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	2 CE	Tom Viola R.Ph, CCP
HYGIENE DEPARTMENT MASTERY: DELIVERING ULTIMATE PATIENT CARE	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	2 CE	Debbie Seidel Bittke RDH
Immediate Implant Placement 4/26 1pm	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	2 CE	Howard Ochs DMD OMS
Signs of Addiction Treatment and Opioid Prescribing Protocols 4/26	2:00 PM	5:00 PM	3 CE	Marc Gottlieb DDS
Risk Management 4/26 2pm	2:00 PM	6:00 PM	4 CE	Robert Peskin DDS
Annual OSHA Mandated Update 4/26 2pm	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	2 CE	Peter Mychajliw DDS
Treating Snoring/Sleep Disordered Breathing and Intraoral Facial Ae	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	3 CE	Larry Lieberman DDS
CPR/AED Mandatory Certification 4/26 3pm	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	3 CE	HDWT
Clinical Flow in Action	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	2 CE	Debbie Seidel Bittke RDH
Anesthetic Management for Complex Dental and Surgical Patients 4/26	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	2 CE	Martin Boorin DMD
Protecting Your Practice Value to Maximize What You Have Built	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	1 CE	Jim Higgins – Henry Schein
April 26th Student Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
April 26th Food and Floor Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Monday 4/27/26 Event	Start	End	CE	Speaker(s)
Signs of Addiction Treatment and Opioid Prescribing Protocols 4/27	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	3 CE	Marc Gottlieb DDS
Chairside Ethics: Daily Dental Dilemmas and their Management	8:00 AM	10:00 PM	2 CE	Kevin Henner DMD, Guenter Jonke DMD
Emergencies in the Dental Office 4/27 8am	8:00 AM	10:00 PM	2 CE	Robert Bacigalupo DDS
Advancement in Oncological Resection & Reconstructive Surgery	8:00 AM	10:00 PM	2 CE	Andrew Salama MD DDS, Laurent Ganry MD
Advanced Adhesion Injection Molded Direct Anterior Composites	9:00 AM	4:00 PM	7 CE	Richard Young DDS
Annual OSHA Mandated Update 4/27 10:30am	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2 CE	Peter Mychajliw DDS
HIPAA Mandated Update – Common HIPAA Dangers	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	2 CE	Mitchell Rubinstein DMD
CPR/AED Mandatory Certification 4/27 Noon	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	3 CE	HDWT
Less Is More: The Magic of Minimally Invasive Dentistry 4/27 Noon	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1 CE	Sheeba Kurian DDS
Dental Implants in Cancer Patients 4/27 noon	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1 CE	Ryan Lee DDS
Mandated Infection Control 4/27 1pm	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	3 CE	Peter Mychajliw DDS
Full-Arch Digital Workflow – A Team Approach to Treatment Planning	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	2 CE	David Jurman DDS MD, Andrew Pacinelli DMD
Minimally Invasive Sinus Surgery Techniques 4/27 2pm	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	1 CE	Bart Silverman DMD
April 27th Student Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
April 27th Food and Floor Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



**MEETING DATES**  
NOV 27 – DEC 1, 2026

**EXHIBIT DATES**  
NOV 29 – DEC 1, 2026

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# New Dentist Corner with Dr. Devin Klein



## Go to GLIDM!!

One of our most valuable upcoming events, yet one that is often overlooked by new dentists, is the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting (GLIDM). For 60 years, GLIDM has been a cornerstone of the Long Island dental community, offering continuing education and professional development designed to support dentists at every stage of their careers. For newly graduated dentists, this meeting is particularly advantageous because many required licensure courses are offered at discounted rates, making it an affordable and strategic way to meet necessary requirements. Additionally, GLIDM allows new

dentists the opportunity to network with colleagues in person. Apart from networking and courses, GLIDM also hosts an exhibitor hall with 40+ vendors. If you are in the market for supplies or new equipment, the exhibitor hall offers that convenience to see the latest and greatest and compare. ADA Members save 50% on all CE programs plus you can take advantage of early bird pricing to save an additional 15% if you register before March 15th.

Be on the lookout for upcoming New Dentist events in the coming months!

Hope to see you at GLIDM!

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

**Check out upcoming events, and/or join our Board of Directors. Simply scan the QR Codes for the information!**



[SCDS Calendar](#)



### Leaders Wanted!

The Suffolk County Dental Society is run by a Board of Directors. Nominations are accepted to join the Board of Directors throughout the year. We encourage members to actively participate to help steer the profession. Your energy and enthusiasm can really make a difference! Scan this QR code or have a look on member's center of our website in Nomination Forms for more detail. It's easy! If you have any questions please email at us [Contact@SuffolkDental.Org](mailto:Contact@SuffolkDental.Org) or call us at 631-232-1400.



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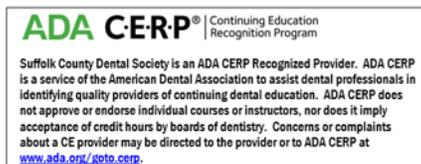


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# **Long-Term Disability Insurance Claims: What Dentists Need to Know—From an Attorney Who Knows Dentistry Personally**

Dentistry is a demanding profession requiring physical stamina, fine motor control, sustained concentration, and resilience under stress. When illness or injury interferes with your ability to practice, long-term disability (LTD) insurance is supposed to be the safety net you planned for. Many dentists are shocked to learn how aggressively these claims are challenged—and how easy it is for them to unintentionally undermine their own valid claim.

I write this not only as an attorney who has successfully represented many dentists in LTD claims, but also as the spouse of a dentist whose own career was halted by chronic illness. I have seen firsthand how devastating disability can be and how confusing and adversarial the claims process becomes. Below are some of the most common ways dentists' LTD claims are challenged—and why experienced legal guidance matters.

## **Misunderstanding Residual Disability Coverage for Practice Owners**

One of the most frequent and costly mistakes involves residual (or partial) disability claims, particularly for dentists who own practices with multiple providers.

Many dentists assume that if their clinical work declines by 50–70%, residual benefits will automatically apply. However, most policies define “earnings” as the income of the dentist *as both a provider and an owner*. This means insurers look at **overall earnings**, not just chairside production.

If associate dentists or hygienists continue generating revenue, the insurer may argue that overall earnings have not dropped by the required threshold—often 20% or more—even though the owner-dentist's personal workload has dramatically declined. Without careful analysis and presentation of financial data, a valid residual claim can be denied outright.

## **Overemphasis on Administrative Duties and the “Dual Occupation” Argument**

Insurers routinely scrutinize how dentists describe their job duties. A common tactic is to overemphasize administrative or managerial tasks—staff oversight, scheduling, billing, or compliance—to argue that the dentist has a *dual occupation*.

In reality, for most dentists, administrative work is minimal and incidental to clinical practice. However, if this is not clearly documented, insurers may claim the dentist can still perform the “administrative occupation” and therefore is not disabled under the policy. Careful framing of occupational duties is essential to avoid this trap.

## **Inadequate Medical Documentation of Functional Impairment**

Dentists have a tendency to work through pain and discomfort, and many physicians focus on diagnosis rather than functional limitations. A diagnosis is perhaps the smallest part of an LTD claim.

Insurers look for detailed documentation of **how symptoms impair specific dental functions**—such as sustained neck flexion, fine motor control, grip strength, endurance, or cognitive focus. Failing to develop medical records that directly tie impairments to occupational demands is one of the leading reasons claims are denied or terminated.

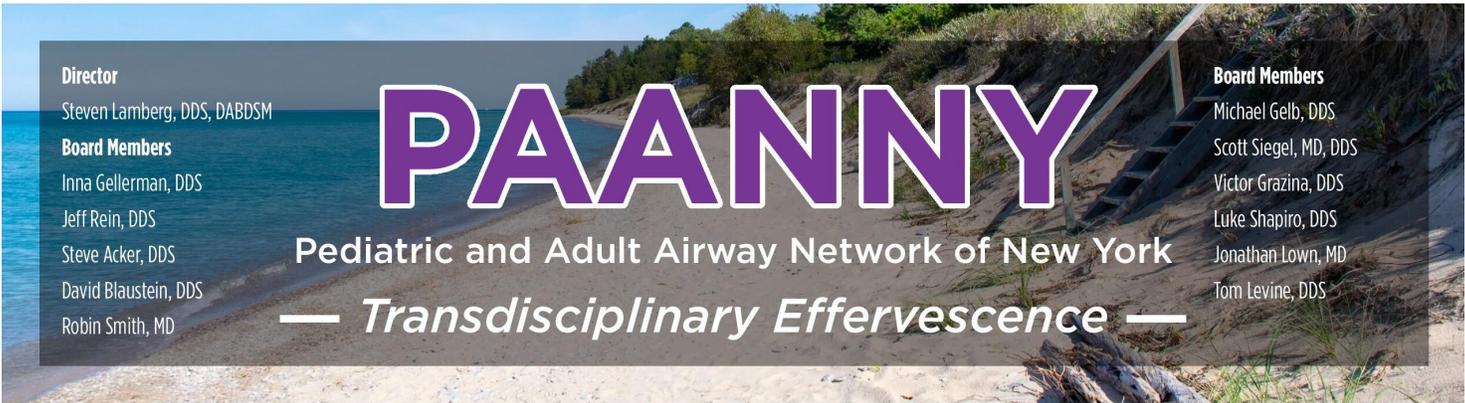
## **Attending Insurer-Requested Medical Exams Without Advocacy**

Insurance company examinations—often called IMEs or “independent” medical exams—are anything but independent. Dentists frequently attend these exams alone, unaware of how statements, demonstrations, or omissions can be used against them.

## **Social Media, Surveillance, and Collateral Information**

What you share publicly matters. Insurers routinely review social media, business websites, and other collateral sources. Posts about travel, hobbies, or practice updates—taken out of context—can and will be used to dispute disability claims.

**Jason A. Newfield, Esq.**, is a founding partner at the national disability law firm *Newfield Law Group* where he aggressively represents claimants in long term disability insurance, ERISA, and other insurance claims and litigation.



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### REGISTRATION & MEETING DETAILS

**MAY 7: REGISTRATION 7:30-8:30**

**BREAKFAST 7:30-9:00 (EXHIBITS OPEN)**

**PROGRAM 9:00-4:00, PROGRAM 5:00-8:00**

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, & Snack/Coffee Breaks Included)*

**MAY 8: BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30 (EXHIBITS OPEN)**

**PROGRAM 8:30-3:45**

**COCKTAIL HOUR 3:45-4:45**

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Date	SCDS Event	Location	Time
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 - 7CE Event - What's New?</a>	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level	9am-4pm
Monday April 13, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	7pm-9pm
Saturday April 18, 2026	<a href="#">Give Kids a Smile - Sponsorship Information</a>	Long Island Aquarium - Riverhead NY	10am-3pm
Sunday, April 26, 2026 - Monday April 27, 2026	<a href="#">GLIDM - The Greater Long Island Dental Meeting - Two-Day Event! a - All Sponsorship Information b - Exclusive Sponsorships Information</a>	Huntington Hilton, Melville NY	All Day
Monday, May 11, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 - 7CE Event - Explanations Not Excuses: Using Imaging and Artificial Intelligence for Better Outcomes and Communication - Kyle L. Reeves, DDS</a>	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	9am-4pm
Wednesday, May 20, 2026	General Membership Meeting - New Location - Commack Hamlet Golf and Country Club	Hamlet Golf and Country Club - 1 Clubhouse Dr, Commack, NY 11725	6pm-9pm
Saturday, May 30, 2026	<a href="#">Shredding Day</a>	150 Motor Parkway Parking Lot	9am-noon
Wednesday, June 17, 2026	Golf Outing - Willow Creek Golf and CC <a href="#">Golfer and Sponsor Information Here!</a>	Mt Sinai NY, 11766 - 11am checkin and BBQ, 11:45 Putting Contest, 12:30 Shotgun start	11am
Monday, September 14, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	General Membership Meeting - ZOOM	Zoom - General Membership Meeting	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, September 23, 2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 - 7CE Event - The role of the dental professional in the detection and management of pediatric sleep-disordered breathing - Michael K. DeLuke, DDS, MDS</a>	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	9am-4pm
Monday, October 19, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, October 21, 2026	<a href="#">Seminar Series 2026 7CE Event - Dr. Andrew Burke - Digital Dentistry Planning Workflow: From Planning to Optimal Outcome</a>	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge, Lower Level Media Center	9am-4pm
Wednesday, November 4, 2026	SPECIAL ALL DAY - BLOCKBUSTER LECTURE - SPACE IS LIMITED	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge, Lower Level Media Center	9am-4pm
Monday, November 16, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting	150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge Lower Level Media Center	7pm-9pm
Wednesday, November 18, 2026	General Membership Meeting - New Location - Commack Hamlet Golf and Country Club	Hamlet Golf and Country Club - 1 Clubhouse Dr, Commack, NY 11725	6pm-9pm
Wednesday, December 2, 2026	COMPLIANCE DAY 2026	SAVE THE DATE - courses will run all day and into the evening	All day and into the evening
	WATCH FOR NEW DENTIST SPONSORED EVENTS		

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