

THE ALABAMA COMPOSITE



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Newsletter of the Alabama AGD

Editor: Bill Chesser, D.M.D., MAGD

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2021 Governance Summary

written by: Derrick D. Mendez, DMD

Each year, the Academy of General Dentistry holds a national governance session in which the House of Delegates convenes to address the business of the organization. The House is the governing body of the AGD and is divided up into 20 regions. The **Alabama Academy of General Dentistry** is part of **Region 19**, along with Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Region 19 Pre-caucus

To prepare for the House of Delegates session, Region 19 is one of the few regions that organizes a pre-caucus meeting prior to the AGD Annual Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to make sure all the region's delegates and alternate delegates are familiar with the



Drs. Ross Isbell, Derrick Mendez, Mike Robinson, Gary Myers, Charles Betts, and Bill Ingram (left to right) accept constituent awards with National AGD President (2021), Dr. Bruce Cassis

resolutions that will be discussed and voted on at the national meeting. Resolutions can effect changes on how the organization operates as well as change its stance on various political and clinical practice issues.

Each year, a different state in Region 19 hosts the pre-caucus meeting. For 2021, the host was South Carolina and **Charleston, SC** was chosen as the meeting locale. The delegates nominated from Alabama were **Bill Ingram, Charles Betts, and Ross Isbell**. Alternate delegates were **Derrick Mendez, Gary Myers, and Mike Robinson**.

House of Delegates

There were a total of **53 resolutions** on the agenda for the 2021 House of Delegates, which took place in Chicago, IL on November 19-21, 2021. This was a greater number of resolutions than in previous years due largely in part to several “housekeeping” initiatives that came about as a result of the hard work of the Governance, Evaluation, and Review Committee (GERC), a committee on which Alabama AGD Executive Director, Gary Myers, sits. Informal labeling as a “housekeeping” resolution indicates the resolution is essentially cleaning up existing language, bringing things more in line with the structure and terminology used in more current AGD documentation.



*Alabama delegates at the pre-caucus meeting in Charleston, SC (left to right):
Drs. Gary Myers, Mike Robinson, Derrick Mendez, Charles Betts, Bill Ingram, Ross Isbell*



Dr. Mike Robinson addressing the House of Delegates

However important consistent structure and terminology may be, GERC certainly tackled more pressing and controversial issues in the resolutions that came about as a result of their work. Perhaps the two most controversial were Resolution 301 and Resolution 302, which focused on amending the bylaws to change the size of the board and change the composition of the executive committee.

Resolution 301 initially sought to combine the secretary and treasurer positions. However, this particular provision was eliminated in the revised Resolution 301R due to heavy opposition. **Resolution 301R**, which ultimately passed, retained provisions that eliminates Past-president as a board position and makes the Editor and Speaker of the House non-voting board positions.

Resolution 302 sought to reduce the number of trustees from 19 to 9 and create a rotating system in which trustees are elected on a national level rather than on a regional level. Aside from the obvious cost savings that would result, this would establish a more nimble board and bring it in line with the size of boards of comparable organizations. Critics of the resolution feared that this would create a situation where larger regions would dominate the board, but proponents were quick to point out that a



Dr. Gary Myers (far left) as a member of the Governance, Evaluation, and Review Committee (GERC)

majority of past-presidents (also of course chosen on a national level) were from smaller regions. Ultimately, supporters of this resolution were unable to garner enough support to pass it through the House.

until proven innocent, in a sense. The unintended consequence of this would be the suspension of a membership when the member may need the AGD's support the most. The substitute resolution submitted by Dr. Ingram

modified the wording to specify "license to practice dentistry permanently suspended" rather than "suspended or revoked."

Installation of National & Regional Leadership

Another important activity that occurs at the House of Delegates is the voting on and installation of officers. The following installations took place:

President: Gerald "Gerry" Botko, DMD, MS, MAGD, FACD, FICD

Vice President: Merlin Ohmer, DDS, MAGD, FICD

Secretary: Abe Dyzenhaus, DDS, FAGD

Speaker of the House: Robert M. Peskin, DDS, FAGD

For Region 19, Jeffrey J. Gardner, DMD, MAGD, was installed as the regional director, and William Burn, III, DMD, MAGD, as the trustee.



Drs. Ross Isbell (far left) and Charles Betts (foreground) in House of Delegates session

Alabama delegate Bill Ingram submitted a substitute to **Resolution 305** after discussing it within Region 19. The wording in the original resolution contained language that would result in the automatic suspension of a member's AGD membership if their dental license were to ever be suspended or revoked for any reason. Dr. Ingram pointed out that several states will temporarily suspend a doctor's license until an investigation has been performed—guilty

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2022

July 27-30

National AGD Scientific Meeting
Orlando, FL

September 8-10

Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry
Hilton Sandestin – Destin, FL

Alabama AGD Wins National Awards

Each year, the constituents of the AGD are expected to submit an extensive report on the previous year’s activities. Dr. Mike Robinson was responsible for compiling the most recent report—a gargantuan task. Awards are given out in 4 categories, as well as an overall Constituent of the Year award. The

Alabama AGD was the recipient of several honors including: an honorable mention for the **Richard B. Knowlton CE Award**, an honorable mention for the **William W. Howard ACE Award**, and winner of the **Public Information Award**. Most notable was recognition of the **Alabama AGD as the winner of Constituent of the Year (COTY)**.

There’s a new name for Alabama AGD’s annual meeting... Emerald Coast Agd Annual Review of Dentistry

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REGISTRATION OPENS SPRING 2022

Visit our website in the spring to see the full course and speaker lineup. We hope to see you in Destin!

www.alagd.com



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Closing Remarks From the President

written by: Tim Smith, DMD, FAGD, MBA

From all of us at Alabama AGD, Happy New Year 2022! I hope this message finds you and your family happy and healthy.

With the new year underway by just a few days, it's satisfying to look back on 2021 at Alabama AGD.

We had a great meeting in Destin in September with high quality presentations and great attendance as we re-launched our annual Review of Dentistry. There was a good turnout from attendees, sponsors and exhibitors and multiple opportunities to get the continuing education credits we all need taken care of. Additionally this year, we had a number of VIP's from AGD National in attendance at the meeting, demonstrating our commitment and connection to the greater AGD organization.

Delegates from Alabama AGD attended the 2021 AGD Annual Meeting and House of Delegates in Chicago in November. During the meeting, Alabama AGD received an award for Constituent of the Year, Public Information, CE (honorable mention) and ACE (honorable mention).

As we move forward in the new year, President-elect, Dr. Charles Betts will be installed as our new President at our February 2022 Meeting over Alumni Weekend and will preside over our organization for the next year. Dr Betts is already doing a terrific job, working on the preparations for our Fall meeting in Destin for this year, September

8-10, 2022. This meeting promises to be a great offering of continuing education classes for doctors, their auxiliaries and staff, as well as those doctors who are pursuing AGD designations such as FAGD and MAGD. In particular, we continue to offer the Master Track course offerings that include both AGD subjects and participation elements required to achieve AGD Fellowship and Mastership status.

This past year has gone by so very quickly. Before ending this note, I want to thank everyone at AGD Alabama for helping so much during my year as President of Alabama AGD, but in particular:



Dr. Gary Myers, Executive Director; Dr. Kim Stiegler, Immediate Past President; Dr. Bill Chesser, Editor of The Composite; Dr. Ross Isbell, and especially, Angie Gilliver, Executive Secretary.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for you. We are grateful for your support of Alabama AGD and look forward to continuing our humble service to the cause of General Dentistry in our state and across the country.

Again, Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Smith, DMD, FAGD, MBA

Random Thoughts

written by: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

I was elected as Editor of ALAGD in 1991, right after having served as President of our organization. This job has provided an interesting, and sometimes frustrating, odyssey.

My intention had been to serve for three or four years, at which time someone else would step up to live the dream. We have now waited for 31 years for Mr. or Ms. Wonderful to present, but he/she has not, so far, appeared. So “yours truly” is still plugging along.

Of course, if your Editor did not enjoy it, that resignation letter would have been submitted long ago. This job has allowed me to stay abreast of our constantly-changing profession, and I am more excited about it now than when I began!

“The process”, as the UA coach calls his plan of action, requires that I write almost everything myself, except the Presidents’ Messages and the occasional Guest Editorials. I must give credit, however, to my wife Christine, who majored in English at UA, had her own weekly column in The Birmingham News in high school, taught HHS English for five years, and who reviews and fluffs my text. There should be no dangling participles or split infinitives in my writing!

Several years ago, our Board decided that one of our four “Alabama Composite” issues per year be produced digitally in an electronic version. This was a major hiccup for me, as I am technologically-challenged! Bill Chesser had no idea how to publish a newsletter online.

Thank goodness, we had my friend, the late Dr. Howard Gamble, to guide me

through this process for several years, before his untimely death in 2015. At this time, my friend in Ozark, Lon Flurer, took on the mantle of guide-for-online-production of our publication. Tragically, he too passed away suddenly—of an affliction similar to Howard’s.

Then, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but Dr. Derrick Mendez, a friend right here in our own ALAGD! He’s brilliant, tech-savvy, and endowed with myriads of patience with my fumbling attempts at doing what comes so easily to him.

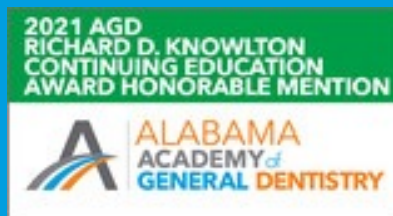
Derrick does innumerable services for Alabama AGD, but his gift to me of making online publication of our newsletter possible has been invaluable! Next time you see this fine young dentist, father, and public servant, give him a special thank-you!



Now to this cursed pandemic: this Omicron variant seems to be raging across our country, doing horrifying damage to our own state. One Alabama expert predicts that all of us will eventually contract this disease, whether vaccinated/boosted or not. However, those vaxxed/boosted reportedly have less-severe symptoms.

Still, those in the know are recommending continued attention to vaccines & boosting, as Omicron does not seem to affect the lungs as violently as other variants, and often results in only "cold-like" symptoms.

Currently, one condition presenting appears to be a combination of Omicron and Flu, termed "Flurona". Daily, the rules seem to change, and we—as Dentists on the Front Lines—must continue to do what we have done since each of us first began to practice our honorable profession: maintain hygienic conditions for our patients, staff, and ourselves; social distance when possible; mask up; stay properly vaxxed. We have always led the fight for safe health care. Nothing has changed for us!



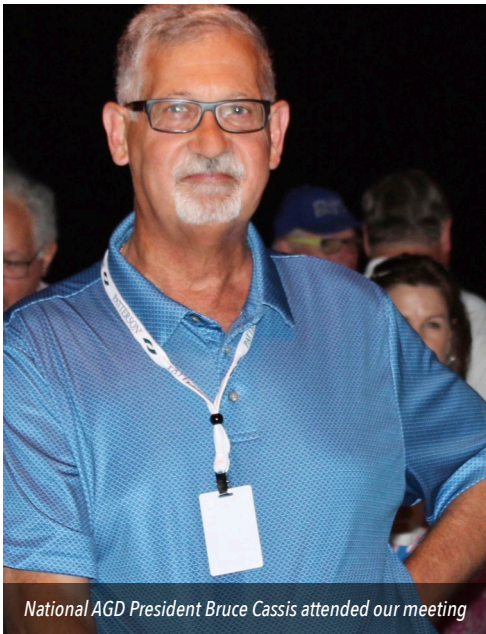
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Photo Review of 2021

Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry - Destin, FL



Alabama AGD President Tim Smith and Executive Director Gary Myers addressing the crowd at Thursday's Annual Sunset Welcome Reception



National AGD President Bruce Cassis attended our meeting



National AGD President-elect Gerry Botko speaking about the AGD at the Sunset Welcome Reception



EMERALD COAST
AGD ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY

Photo Review of 2021

Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry - Destin, FL (continued)



Attendees of the hands-on portion of the MasterTrack course with Dr. Doug Lambert



Dr. Bill Ingram gets into the act as he presents a TV to a lucky winner



Dr. Bob DeShazer prepares to give away door prizes at the Exhibit Hall party; we give away thousands in door prizes each year



VIPs attending Alabama AGD board meeting as guests (left to right)
Dr. Nick Russo from Delaware, Dr. Bill Burn Regional Director from South Carolina, and Dr. Glen Miller Region 19 Trustee

Photo Review of 2021

AGD Governance Meeting - Chicago, IL



Dr. Bill Ingram gets into the act as he presents a TV to a lucky winner



Alabama delegate Dr. Mike Robinson poses in front of COTY award announcement



VP candidate Dr. Merlin Ohmer visits Region 19 caucus



Memorial for long-time friend of organized dentistry & past Region 19 delegate, Dr. Rocky Napier



Alabama Delegate Dr. Charles Betts in House of Delegates

A Special Thanks From the Student Chapter

As part of registering for the Emerald Coast AGD Review of Dentistry, hosted by the Alabama AGD in 2021, attendees were given the option to add an additional \$20 to their registration to cover the cost of a D1 student’s AGD membership. The student chapter would like to extend a special thank-you to the following 27 attendees who contributed to this effort:

Dr. Stanley R. Beard
 Dr. Charles Betts
 Dr. Tim Brooks
 Dr. J. Paul Diaz
 Dr. Lexi Ellisor
 Dr. Carrol Fischer
 Dr. James Gardner
 Dr. Wendy Holder
 Dr. Ross Isbell

Dr. Dino Jacovides
 Dr. John Jennings
 Dr. Jim Lassiter
 Dr. Derrick D. Mendez
 Dr. Ryan Morrison
 Dr. Toni Neumeier
 Dr. Hugh Ogletree
 Dr. Kuntal Pandit
 Dr. Shivani Pandit

Dr. David Peppers
 Dr. Albert Redmond
 Mrs. Linda Robinson
 Dr. Michael Robinson
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 Dr. Diana Tedder
 Dr. Layne Washington
 Dr. Sonya Wintzell

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